



**ISRAELI PM WARNS  
OF PROLONGED WAR  
CAMPAIGN IN GAZA**

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**PICTURE PERFECT  
POSTCARD PROJECT  
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**Aruba TODAY**

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Tuesday, July 29, 2014



**Disturbing The Peace**

**Gun Battle Erupts in New York's West Village**

Police officers stand near a crime scene on Monday, July 28, 2014, in New York. A California man who skipped town after being accused of molesting a child was killed and three law enforcement officers trying to arrest him were wounded in a daytime shootout inside a small, narrow New York City smoke shop, officials said Monday.

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

**MARC SANTORA  
J. DAVID GOODMAN**  
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NEW YORK - Two federal marshals and one New York City police detective were shot on Monday in Greenwich Village when they went to arrest a man accused of molesting a

child in California, the authorities said.  
The suspect, whom the authorities identified as Charles Mozdir, was shot and killed in a gun battle that erupted in a smoke shop in the normally placid neighborhood in Manhattan.

The authorities were acting on a tip after Mozdir was featured on "The Hunt" on CNN, a television program hosted by John Walsh, the creator of "America's Most Wanted."  
The suspect's weapon was recovered at the scene, according to Police Com-

missioner William J. Bratton. Bratton said that the three law enforcement officers were rushed to Bellevue Hospital, where one was in surgery and the others were being treated for their injuries.  
The detective was shot twice in the torso, one mar-

shal was shot in the buttocks and the other was shot in the shoulder, according to Stephen Davis, a spokesman for the Police Department.

Continued on page 3



## Netanyahu: Be ready for 'prolonged' Gaza war

**KARIN LAUB  
TIA GOLDENBERG**  
**Associated Press**

**GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)** — Signaling an escalation of Israel's Gaza operation, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told Israelis Monday to be ready for a "prolonged" war, and the military warned Palestinians in three large neighborhoods to leave their homes and head immediately for Gaza City. The warnings came on

"God help us. We have nothing to do but pray," the 27-year-old told The Associated Press by phone. "I don't know who left and who stayed, but in our street, we are all very scared to move." Later Monday, Israeli forces fired a large numbers of flares over Gaza City, turning the night sky a bright orange. The latest bloodshed came despite mounting international calls for a

Israeli missile hit as children were playing on a swing set. "The children were playing and were happy, enjoying Eid, and they got hit," said Nidal Aljerbi, a witness. After three weeks of bloodshed, both Israel and Hamas are holding out for bigger gains and a cease-fire remains elusive, despite an appeal by the U.N. Security Council and growing pressure from the United States.



**Israeli soldiers ride an armored personnel carrier near the Gaza Strip border. A truce between Israel and Hamas militants in Gaza remained elusive as diplomats sought to end the fighting at the start of the Eid al-Fitr holiday, marking the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.**  
(Uriel Sinai/The New York Times)

a day of heavy Hamas-Israeli fighting in which nine young children were killed by a strike on a Gaza park where they were playing, according to Palestinian health officials — a tragedy that each side blamed on the other. Israeli tanks also resumed heavy shelling in border areas of Gaza, killing five people, including three children and a 70-year-old woman, and wounding 50 in the town of Jebaliya, which was among the areas warned to evacuate, the Red Crescent said. Many Jebaliya residents said they did not dare attempt an escape. Sufian Abed Rabbo said his extended family of 17 had taken refuge under the stairway in their home.

cease-fire and followed failed attempts by both sides to agree to even a lull in fighting of several hours for the start of the three-day Muslim holiday of Eid el-Fitr that marks the end of Ramadan. The Hamas-run health ministry said 10 people, including nine children under the age of 12, were killed and 46 wounded in the blast at a park in the Shati refugee camp on the outskirts of Gaza City. Each side blamed the other. Lt. Col. Peter Lerner, an Israeli military spokesman, said the explosion was caused when a rocket launched by Gaza militants misfired and landed in the park. Palestinian police and civil defense said an

Israel says its troops will not leave Gaza until they have demolished scores of Hamas military tunnels under the Gaza-Israel border that militants use to infiltrate Israel and smuggle weapons. Hamas says it will not cease fire until it receives international guarantees Gaza's 7-year-old border blockade by Egypt and Israel will be lifted. Netanyahu defended the Gaza air and ground offensive, saying in a televised speech Monday that "there is no war more just than this." Israel has said it is defending its citizens against attack from Gaza by hitting Hamas rocket launchers, weapons storage sites and military tunnels. □



**A pro-Russian militiaman walks by pieces of the downed Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 near Grabovo, Ukraine.**  
(Mauricio Lima/The New York Times)

## UN rights chief: Flight 17 possible war crime

**JOHN HEILPRIN**  
**Associated Press**

**GENEVA (AP)** — The downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 may be a war crime, U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay said Monday. Pillay, the U.N.'s top human rights official, called for a thorough investigation into the violation of international law that occurred when the flight was shot down with a surface-to-air missile over a part of eastern Ukraine controlled by pro-Russian separatists on July 17, killing all 298 people on board. Pillay's comments coincided with a new report by her office that says at least 1,129 people had been killed and 3,442 wounded in Ukraine's fighting as of Saturday, and more than 100,000 have fled the violence since April. "This violation of international law, given the prevailing circumstances, may amount to a war crime," Pillay said of the downed jetliner, which U.S. and Ukrainian officials say was shot down by a missile from rebel territory, most likely by mistake.

"It is imperative that a prompt, thorough, effective, independent and impartial investigation be conducted into this event," she said.

Fighting over the weekend prevented a team of Dutch and Australian police officers from visiting the crash site to start searching for evidence and the remaining bodies. The Dutch government said a team

of 26 forensic experts left Donetsk for the crash site on Monday. A full-fledged investigation still has not begun at the crash site. Some bodies are still unrecovered and the site has been forensically compromised. The report by the U.N.'s team of 39 field monitors in Ukraine says there has been an alarming buildup of heavy weaponry in civilian areas of Donetsk and Luhansk — including artillery, tanks, rockets and missiles that are being used to inflict increasing casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure. The report says such attacks could amount to violations of international humanitarian law. Gianni Magazzeni, head of the U.N. office's branch that oversees Ukraine, told reporters in Geneva that all governments must respect "the presumption of innocence of civilians." "There is an increase in the use of heavy weaponry in areas that are basically surrounded by public buildings," he said. "All international law needs to be applied and fully respected." Wouter Oude Alink, an expert at Leiden University's International Institute of Air and Space Law in the Netherlands, said shooting down the airliner and killing all 298 people onboard violates the 1944 Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation, including an important addition to it ratified by Russia and Ukraine, and the 1945 U.N. Charter. □



## Gun Battle

Continued from Front

Mayor Bill de Blasio, who joined Bratton at a previously scheduled news conference, said that initial reports indicated that the wounds were not life-threatening and that he was praying that those reports were correct.

The three law enforcement officers were trying to execute a warrant near the corner of West Fourth Street and Avenue of the Americas, Bratton said.

The two federal marshals and the detective were part of the federal fugitive task force, which combines the efforts of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to apprehend dangerous fugitives and assist in investigations. In this case, law enforcement officials said, they were serving a warrant on a man wanted for child molestation in San Diego.

Steve Jurman, supervisory deputy marshal in the U.S. Marshals Service San Diego office, identified the suspect as Mozdir.

After the shooting, which happened around 1 p.m., dozens of police officers rushed to the scene, closing off streets as curious onlookers gathered at hastily erected barricades, trying to find out the cause of the commotion.

Dong Hwan, who works at Moon Sheen Tattoo, said he saw a flurry of police activity outside his shop.

"One guy was holding his belly," he said. Hwan said that the man emerged from a building, surrounded by police, one of whom with his hands on the man's stomach.

Cheyenne Whittier, who works at the Pink Pussycat, said she saw a heavyset man covered in tattoos being wheeled out of the smoke shop on a stretcher. The man was not moving and he appeared dead, she said.

Mozdir, 32, had been on the run since June 15, 2012. His case and the police manhunt for him drew national attention after it was featured on "The Hunt," which airs on Sunday evenings. □

# Obama mulls large-scale move on immigration

ERICA WERNER

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Even as they grapple with an immigration crisis at the Mexican border, White House officials are making plans to act before November's elections to grant work permits to potentially millions of immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally, allowing them to stay in the United States without threat of deportation, according to advocates and lawmakers in touch with the administration.

Such a large-scale move on immigration could scramble election-year politics and lead some conservative Republicans to push for impeachment proceedings against President Barack Obama, a prospect White House officials have openly discussed.

Yet there's little sign that the urgent humanitarian situation in South Texas, where unaccompanied minors have been showing up by the tens of thousands from Central America, has impeded Obama from making plans to address some portion of the 11.5 million immigrants now in this country illegally. Obama announced late last month that congressional efforts to remake the nation's dysfunctional immigration system were dead and he would proceed on his own authority to fix the system where he could.

Since then he's asked Congress for \$3.7 billion to deal with the crisis of unaccom-

panied youths, a request that's gone unmet even as the House and the Senate scramble to see if they can vote on some solution to the crisis this week before adjourning for their annual August recess.

Meanwhile, White House

religious leaders, Hispanic lawmakers and others.

Advocates and lawmakers who were in separate meetings Friday said that administration officials are weighing a range of options including reforms to the deportation system

see deferred action made available to anyone who would have been eligible for eventual citizenship under a comprehensive immigration bill the Senate passed last year, which would be around 9 million people. But Obama told



U.S. President Barack Obama speaks to the media on immigration and the border crisis in the Cabinet Room of the White House, in Washington.

(AP Photo)

officials led by Domestic Policy Council Director Cecilia Munoz and White House Counsel Neil Eggleston, along with Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson, have been working to chart a plan on executive actions Obama could take, hosting frequent meetings with interest groups and listening to recommendations from immigration advocates, law enforcement officials,

and ways to grant relief from deportation to targeted populations in the country, likely by expanding Obama's two-year-old directive that granted work permits to certain immigrants brought here illegally as youths. That program, called Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, has been extended to more than 500,000 immigrants so far.

Advocates would like to

them in a meeting a month ago to "right-size" expectations, even as he pledged to be aggressive in steps he does take.

"Our parents deserve to live without the fear of deportation," Maria Praeli, a 21-year-old who came to the United States from Peru 16 years ago, said at a protest outside the White House on Monday. "It is time for the president to go big and to go bold." □

## US Court: Virginia marriage is for all lovers

M. FELBERBAUM

Associated Press

**RICHMOND, Virginia (AP)**

— Virginia's same-sex marriage ban is unconstitutional, a federal appeals court ruled Monday, one of more than 20 legal decisions around the country favoring gay marriage proponents since U.S. Supreme Court struck down part of the Defense of Marriage Act last year.

The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond is the second federal appellate court to overturn gay mar-

riage bans, after the Denver circuit, and is the first to affect the South, where states' rights have held sway for generations.

More than 70 cases have been filed in all 31 states that prohibit same-sex marriage. Nineteen states and the District of Columbia allow such marriages.

North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper quickly announced Monday that his office will stop defending his state's ban, saying, it is "time to stop making arguments we will likely lose."

But a spokesman for South Carolina's attorney general, Alan Wilson, said he sees no need to change course. Cooper joins a growing number of top state lawmakers, including Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring, who have refused to defend their state bans.

"I am proud that the Commonwealth of Virginia is leading on one of the most important civil rights issues of our day," Herring said. "We are fighting for the right of loving, committed couples to enter the bonds

of marriage."

In Monday's 2-1 opinion in Virginia, the judges ruled that Virginia's constitutional and statutory provisions barring gay marriage and denying recognition of such unions performed in other states violate the U.S. Constitution. The defendants are likely to ask for the ruling to be stayed pending more appeals to the full 4th circuit and the U.S. Supreme Court; otherwise, marriage licenses to same-sex couples could begin to be issued in 21 days. □



# Deal reached in Congress on VA funding

**THEODORE SCHLEIFER**

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**WASHINGTON** - House and Senate leaders have agreed to a compromise on legislation that would allocate \$17 billion to reform the beleaguered Department of Veterans Affairs' health care system.

If it is approved by the full House and Senate this week, the agreement would end a lengthy stand-off over the funding that at times looked to imperil any possible deal.

The bill, which is expected to be approved by a congressional conference on Monday and then voted on by both chambers before a recess begins on Friday, provides \$10 billion to allow veterans facing long wait times at agency facilities to obtain private medical care.

That money would also pay for private care for veterans who live more than 40 miles away from a VA facility.

In addition, \$5 billion would pay in part for the hiring of new doctors and nurses to drive down patient wait

times. The delays became a political scandal for the Obama administration this spring and led to the resign-

Committee, said at a news conference Monday with Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., to outline the legislation.

gress leaves Washington this week. Most Senate Democrats boycotted a meeting called by Miller



**Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), right, and Rep. Jeff Miller (R-Fla.), the chairmen of the Senate and House Veterans's Affairs committees, respectively, walk to a news conference on VA reform legislation in Washington, July 28, 2014. The lawmakers discussed a bipartisan agreement on a legislative package intended to stabilize the VA's sprawling and embattled health care system.**

(Doug Mills/The New York Times)

nation of the secretary of Veterans Affairs, Eric Shinseki, in May.

"Funding for veterans' needs must be considered a cost of war and appropriated as emergency spending," Sen. Bernard Sanders, I-Vt., the chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs

"Planes and tanks and guns are a cost of war," Sanders said. "So is taking care of the men and women who use those weapons and fight our battles."

Earlier it had appeared that tension between Sanders and Miller might derail an agreement before Con-

late last week to discuss his plan, causing tensions to flare. Miller's plan called for about \$10 billion in funding, while Sanders called for about \$25 billion.

Miller said he was confident that he could win Republican support for the bill despite the cost. □

## White House: US, EU to impose new Russia sanctions

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The United States and European Union plan to impose new sanctions against Russia this week, including penalties targeting key sectors of the Russian economy, the White House said Monday.

The show of Western solidarity comes as the U.S. accuses Russia of ramping up its troop presence on its border with Ukraine and shipping more heavy weaponry to pro-Moscow separatists in eastern Ukrainian cities.

President Barack Obama and the leaders of Britain, Germany, France and Italy discussed the crisis during a rare joint video teleconference on Monday. The discussion follows days of bilateral talks on how to implement tougher sanctions after the downing of a passenger jet in eastern Ukraine, an attack the U.S. says was carried out by the separatists. The U.S. and European sanctions are likely to target Russia's energy, arms and financial sectors. The EU is also weighing the prospect of levying penalties on individuals close to Russian President Vladimir Putin, who appears to only be deepening Russia's role in destabilizing Ukraine.

"It's precisely because we've not yet seen a strategic turn from Putin that we believe it's absolutely essential to take additional measures, and that's what the Europeans and the United States intend to do this week," said Tony Blinken, Obama's deputy national security adviser.

Europe, which has a stronger trade relationship with Russia than the U.S., has lagged behind Washington with its earlier sanctions package, in part out of concern from leaders that the penalties could have a negative impact on their own economies. But a spokesman for British Prime Minister David Cameron said following Monday's call that the West agreed that the EU should move a "strong package of sectoral sanctions as swiftly as possible." □

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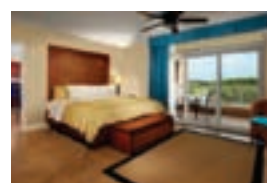
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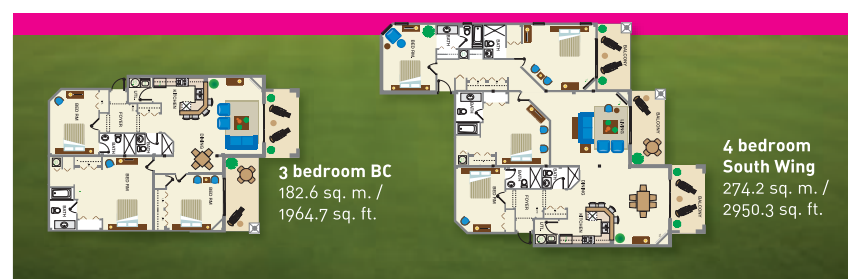
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Saco, Maine:

## Slain family of 5 was murder-suicide, police say

DAVID SHARP  
Associated Press

**SACO, Maine (AP)** — A maintenance worker with financial problems killed his wife and three children with a shotgun, then committed suicide, over the weekend in what state police called one of the worst cases of domestic violence in Maine history, investigators said Monday.

Joel Smith presented a friendly face at the 61-unit apartment complex where he worked. But he was having domestic and financial problems, and his wife told a family friend that he had recently threatened to kill himself, police said.

The family had moved from Arizona about two years ago because of the sour economy, said Smith's mother, Jerys Caruthers-Thorpe, of Scottsdale, Arizona. "I know something had to have snapped because Joel never would have done that in his right mind," she said.

Heather Smith, 35, was shot along with the couple's 4-year-old daughter, Lily, in the parents' bed, said Sgt.

Christopher Harriman, a state police detective. Joel Smith's body was found on the floor nearby, the shotgun by his side, Harriman said.

The boys, 12-year-old Jason Montez and 7-year-old Noah Montez, were found dead in their separate bedrooms, Harriman said. No suicide note was found. But investigators said the wife told a family friend Saturday night before the shooting that Joel Smith recently had threatened suicide by holding a gun to his head about a week earlier. The friend later contacted an apartment complex worker to express concerns about the family's well-being, leading to the discovery Sunday, police said.

The case underscores the importance of taking suicide threats seriously, especially in light of a report by the Maine Domestic Abuse Homicide Review Panel that showed 66 percent of domestic homicide perpetrators had previously exhibited suicidal behavior, said Maine Attorney Gen-



State Police investigate an apartment complex where five members of a family, including three children, were found dead Sunday, July 27, 2014, in Saco, Maine. The bodies of a father, mother and children were found inside the apartment, state police spokesman Steve McCausland said. (AP Photo/Robert F. Bukaty)

eral Janet Mills.

"Telling your boyfriend or girlfriend, 'I can't live without you,' can quickly cross from the innocuous to the devastating," she said. Neighbors described the father as well known in the apartment complex along the Saco River because he worked for a company that provided mainte-

nance services. They described him as friendly and outgoing. Few knew about any problems.

"If there was anything going wrong, no one knew it," said Heather Nason, who used to babysit the three

children. "Whatever was wrong, they hid it well."

Smith, who was a carpenter and builder, decided to follow his father to Maine in hopes of escaping the tough economy out West, Caruthers-Thorpe said. □

## CA governor takes dig at Texas guard plan

MARK STEVENSON  
Associated Press

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — California Gov. Jerry Brown took a not-so-subtle dig at Texas' decision to deploy National Guard troops to the border, saying Monday he expects it to be a short-lived measure and that "wiser minds will prevail."

Brown is in Mexico for three days of meetings, focusing on migration, trade, investment and environmental cooperation.

At a news conference with Mexican Foreign Relations Secretary Jose Antonio Meade, Brown said the immigration overload

of thousands of Central American youths at the border should be seen as a humanitarian issue. The U.S. is coping with a dramatic increase in the number of unaccompanied children attempting to cross the border, coming mainly from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador.

Meade said he and Brown agree that the use of law-enforcement or military agencies "is never justified in cases where children are concerned" unless they are providing medical or logistical aid.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry, a Republican, announced

a decision last week to deploy up to 1,000 National Guard troops to the Texas-Mexico border over the next month to combat what he said were criminals exploiting a surge of children pouring into the U.S. illegally.

Asked about that, California's Democratic governor said: "I hesitate to comment on the thinking that goes into the sending of the Texas National Guard to the border. I would suspect that it would be of relatively short duration and that wiser minds will prevail in the next several months." □

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# Paid leave encourages female employees to stay

Claire Cain Miller

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A mysterious fact that economists are wrestling with is that the percentage of women in the U.S. who are working or want to work has been declining, after a decades-long climb.

The drop is small (and less dramatic than the decline of men in the labor force) but is contributing to a dip in overall labor force participation, which policymakers see as an impediment to economic recovery.

A series of changes helped women enter the workforce in the last three decades of the 20th century, including the Civil Rights Act, the earned-income tax credit, the birth control pill and technology in the home. But then participation began to drop - even as women in some cases became more qualified workers than men (women earn 59 percent of higher education degrees, for instance).

Stalled policy goes a long way toward explaining why women stop work-



Dana Hehl, who is on maternity leave, with her 5-week-old daughter, Isobel, in San Francisco, July 27, 2014. Paid maternity leave might help keep women in the workforce, and perhaps stall a mysterious decline in the percentage of women who are working or want to work.

(Peter DaSilva/The New York Times)

ing, and new approaches could help women complete the decades-long transition into the labor force. One of the most powerful tools would be to mandate policies like paid leave, according to a report published this month by the White House Council of Economic Advisers.

In the last decade, the report points out, other developed countries adopted a variety of policies to help working parents, like paid family leave, subsidized child care and support for part-time work. The U.S., meanwhile, did very little, which is why it no longer leads European countries in female labor force participation.

"It's sort of a no-brainer to think about it: If you don't have child care, you're going to have fewer women in the labor force," said Betsey Stevenson, a member of the Council of Economic Advisers who is

on leave as an economics and public policy professor at the University of Michigan.

The U.S. is the only developed country not to offer paid maternity leave as part of federal policy. Just 59 percent of workers say their employers offer them paid leave, according to the council.

That may be affecting American competitiveness. Family-friendly policies in other countries explain nearly a third of the decrease in women's labor force participation relative to those countries between 1990 and 2010,

according to a 2013 study by Francine D. Blau and Lawrence M. Kahn of Cornell University.

After California became the first state to offer paid parental leave, new mothers were more likely to return to work, according to a study by Maya Rossin-Slater and Jane Waldfogel of Columbia University and Christopher J. Ruhm of the University of Virginia. One to three years later, mothers of small children were working more and at higher incomes. Paid leave provides job continuity, economists say, so women are less likely to leave the labor force. Paid leave is particularly important for low-income mothers, who more than doubled their maternity leaves in California.

"When people have paid leave, it just gives them a path back to work, whereas when they drop out of the labor force and stop working in order to take a leave with a young child, they come back slower," Stevenson said.

Google is another real-world case study. Postpartum women were leaving the company at a rate twice that of other employees. So Google expanded its maternity leave to five months fully paid from three months partly paid. Attrition decreased by 50 percent. □

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## Tyson to sell Mexico, Brazil poultry operations

**SPRINGDALE, Ark. (AP)** — Tyson Foods plans to sell its poultry businesses in Mexico and Brazil for \$575 million in cash to help pay debt from its recently announced acquisition of Hillshire Brands. The Springdale, Arkansas, meat processor said Monday that it still plans to expand its international operations, especially in Asia, but the businesses it will sell didn't have the scale to gain leading positions in their markets. Tyson made the announcement the same day it reported fiscal third-quarter earnings that climbed more than 4 percent but missed analyst expectations.

Tyson Foods Inc. said it expects the sale of its Mexico and Brazil operations to JBS SA will be completed by the end of the year. JBS SA is the parent of JBS USA Holdings Inc., which owns Pilgrim's Pride. Tyson's Mexican business will be acquired through Pilgrim's Pride. Tyson's Mexico and Brazil operations employ more than 10,000 people combined. Tyson said the new owners expect to maintain all operations and labor contracts in both countries.

Also on Monday, Tyson said its third-quarter earnings climbed to \$260 million, or 73 cents per share, from

\$249 million, or 68 cents per share, in the same quarter a year earlier. Adjusted earnings totaled 75 cents per share, which missed average analyst expectations of 83 cents per share, according to Zacks Investment Research.

Revenue climbed 11 percent to \$9.68 billion.

Tyson, which employs about 115,000 people globally, said last week it would close three U.S. plants that have struggled financially. Those plants are located in Cherokee, Iowa; Buffalo, New York; and Santa Teresa, New Mexico. They employ a total of 950 workers. □



## US Financial Front:

## Contracts to buy American homes slip in June

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Fewer Americans signed contracts to buy homes in June, as the real estate market appears to have cooled off this summer.

The National Association of Realtors said Monday that its seasonally adjusted pending home sales index slipped 1.1 percent to 102.7 last month. The index remains 7.3 percent below its level a year ago.

Sales have been slowed by a mix of meager wage growth, rising home prices, and mortgage rates that

rose steadily through the end of last year.

Pending sales are a barometer of future purchases. A one- to two-month lag usually exists between a contract and a completed sale.

Signed contracts in June fell in the Northeast and South. They rose slightly in the Midwest and West. Pending sales in all four U.S. regions are below last year's pace.

Home sales had been improving through the middle of 2013, only to stumble over the past 12 months. Buying has decelerated



A mailman delivers mail to a house for sale in Quincy, Mass. The National Association of Realtors said Monday, July 28, 2014, that its seasonally adjusted pending home sales index slipped 1.1 percent to 102.7 last month.

(AP Photo/Michael Dwyer)

## House bill to allow airlines to advertise pre-tax fares

ALAN FRAM

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

The House of Representatives rejected consumers' complaints and passed legislation Monday letting airline advertising emphasize the base price of tickets, before taxes and fees are added in a victory for the airlines and their workers' unions.

The bipartisan legislation would roll back federal regulations that since 2012 have required ads to most prominently display the full ticket price. Under the bill, the base price would have to be the one most prominently shown in ads as long as taxes and fees are displayed separately, such as in footnotes or pop-up ads. The measure was approved by voice vote, in which individual lawmakers' votes are not recorded. Such votes are used often for non-controversial bills, but they can also allow legislators avoid taking a public position on a touchy issue.

Groups representing airline passengers and companies that frequently rely on corporate travel say the bill's enactment would return the country to an earlier era of misleading and confusing advertising.

"Their main goal is to be able to offer the public a low-ball price," said Charlie Leocha, chairman of Travelers United, which represents people who travel.

But the airlines — backed by unions representing pilots, mechanics and flight attendants — say including taxes and fees in their advertised prices hurts business and hides from consumers the extra costs that government imposes on air travel. Supporters say the measure would make it clear to fliers just how much of a ticket's cost comes from federal taxes and fees.

"The rule effectively masks, I would argue hides, the current government-imposed taxes and fees on consumers," Rep. Bill Shuster, a Republican and chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, said during debate that lasted just 11 minutes. The only other speaker Monday was Rep. Peter DeFazio, a Democrat who with Shuster sponsored the legislation. DeFazio mocked the current regulation's requirement that the full price must be shown more prominently in advertising.

"Talk about the nanny state," he said. □

despite a recent decline in mortgage rates and home prices increasing at a slower rate than last year.

Sales were initially disrupted by harsh winter weather, but the summer slowdown suggests that financial pressures are now keeping would-be buyers on the sidelines.

"The latest decline raises questions about the hous-

ing market strength after the weather-related rebound is behind us," said Yelena Shulyatyeva, an analyst at BNP Paribas. "Housing will remain an area of concern" for Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen. New home sales fell 8.1 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 406,000, the Commerce Department said

last week.

The Realtors recently reported that sales of existing homes increased 2.6 percent in June to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.04 million homes. It marked the first time that sales have been above the 5 million-mark since October, yet the pace of buying remained below last year's level of 5.1 million. □



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# American companies increasingly fish for growth overseas

**MICHAEL LIEDTKE**

**AP Technology Writer**

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** —

Major U.S. companies are starting to reap their most rapid growth in fertile lands of opportunity far from home.

Technology trendsetters Apple Inc., Google Inc., Facebook Inc. and Netflix Inc. all mined foreign countries to produce earnings or revenue that exceeded analysts' projections in their latest quarters. Prodded by the steadily rising demand for Internet access and on-line services in developing countries, these technology companies will likely be wading even deeper into overseas markets for years to come.

"The philosophy is to start your growth in the states and then take your fight overseas," says BGC Financial analyst Colin Gillis. "That's what the big guys are doing."

The intensifying international focus extends beyond technology. Century-old companies such as Coca-Cola Co. and Ford Motor Co. also are hoping to make more money in countries including China and India.

Few U.S. industries are tying their fortunes to overseas markets as aggressively as the technology sector, where new sources of revenue are often just a matter of equipping people with a computing device and an Internet connection.

Soaring sales of iPhones in China, Russia, India and Brazil during the April-June period helped Apple overcome softening demand for the device in the U.S. and Europe, where consumers seem to be more interested in waiting for the autumn release of a new iPhone that's expected to

feature a larger screen.

Google generated 58 percent of its revenue outside the U.S. in its second quarter, the highest level yet for the Internet's most powerful company.

Facebook already gets 55 percent of its revenue overseas, and the growth

ket's record-breaking run. The Standard & Poor's 500 index has already climbed nearly 8 percent this year, well ahead of its average pace historically, while analysts expect earnings to increase 8 percent this year. Low interest rates and an improving economy have

The natural response for many companies? Look abroad because that's where most of the potential customers are. The U.S. population accounts for less than 5 percent of the world's roughly 7.2 billion people.

The U.S., though, still boasts

Google's growth in foreign markets outside Europe is one of the reasons that the company's average advertising prices have been falling for nearly three years.

Advertisers so far haven't been willing to pay as much to peddle their wares to consumers who don't have as much disposable income as people in the U.S.

Facebook is experiencing a similar phenomenon. The company reaped an average of \$6.44 per user in the U.S. and Canada during the second quarter, compared with just \$2.84 per user in Europe, \$1.08 per user in Asia and 86 cents per user in the rest of the world.

Although the company remains profitable overall, Netflix still isn't making money on an international expansion that began nearly four years ago. The company's international losses have exceeded \$800 million so far, with more likely to come with the move into France and Germany looming.

Most publicly held companies are willing to endure short-term financial pain in return for what they expect will be a long-term gain in growth. That's one of the reasons Ford Motor is building four plants in China and two in India. By 2020, the automaker hopes Asia Pacific and the Middle East will account for one-third of its sales. The regions accounted for 22 percent of Ford's sales in the latest quarter.

Coca-Cola is looking abroad for growth largely because it's becoming tougher for beverage makers to increase revenue in a U.S. market already awash in soda and other refreshments. □



**In this July 24, 2014 photo, Facebook staff members attend the opening ceremony of their new office in Hong Kong. Facebook already gets 55 percent of its revenue overseas, and the growth in those markets is outpacing what's happening in the U.S. The social networking service has attracted 1.1 billion users in foreign markets versus 200 million in the U.S. and Canada.**

**(AP Photo/Kin Cheung)**

in those markets is outpacing by what's happening in the U.S. The social networking service has attracted 1.1 billion users in foreign markets versus 200 million in the U.S. and Canada.

Netflix's Internet video service added 1.1 million international subscribers, nearly doubling the number it gained in the U.S. during the April-June quarter. The company expects the trend to continue as Netflix enters six more European markets, including France and Germany, in September.

Corporate profits will probably need to keep rising to sustain the U.S. stock mar-

ket helped to create a climate of optimism, said Brad McMillan, chief investment officer at Commonwealth Financial.

"Everything is going well right now," McMillan said. "That's what's driving the market up."

Like many other money managers, McMillan isn't convinced companies will be able to live up to investors' high hopes.

Overall sales have been slow, and profit margins are at record levels after years of cost-cutting. Those factors will make it tougher for companies to find ways to ratchet their earnings even higher.

the world's largest economy with a mass market of consumers who can afford more products and services than most other parts of the world. That means growth in other countries, especially in markets outside of Europe, Japan and South Korea, often isn't as lucrative as it is in the U.S. Apple, which has always demanded premium prices, is discovering this as it sells more devices overseas. For instance, the iPhone's average selling price fell to \$561 in Apple's most recent quarter, a 3 percent drop from a year ago and a 13 percent decline from \$647 two years ago.





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### AP: Air Algerie jet's black boxes arrive in France

**SYLVIE CORBET**  
Associated Press

**PARIS (AP)** — The remains of the 118 victims from the Algerian passenger jet that went down in Mali last week have been "pulverized," making identification extremely difficult, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said Monday.

The two black boxes, which were quickly found, arrived in France on Monday and six engineers are already working on them, Transport Minister Frederic Cuvillier said.

Analysis of the data and voice recorders will be precious in trying to determine why the Air Algerie flight fell from the sky last Thursday. However, it was not immediately clear whether the boxes were in decent enough shape to be read. French authorities say extremely bad weather was the likely cause, but rule out nothing.

Victims from 15 countries were aboard the aircraft, leased by Air Algerie from the Spanish company Swiftair, and 54 of the passengers were from France — nearly half. Mali heads up the investigation, but France is taking a leading role and the identification of victims will take place there.

Fabius said the pilot of the MD-83 had asked to turn back after telling the control tower he wanted to change route due to the weather — the first time an official said the pilot wanted to abandon the trip from Ougadougou, Burkina Faso, to Algiers, Algeria. Fabius reiterated that "it is too soon to (say with) certitude" why the aircraft went down some 50 minutes after takeoff. □

## Fighting in Ukraine prompts residents to flee

**MSTYSLAV CHERNOV**  
**PETER LEONARD**  
Associated Press  
**SHAKHTARSK, Ukraine (AP)**

— Panicky residents in an eastern Ukrainian town fled their homes Monday carrying a few possessions in plastic bags and small suitcases as shells exploded in the distance, fighting that

planned to begin searching for remaining bodies and gathering forensic evidence and the delay strained tempers among international observers.

"There is a job to be done," said Alexander Hug, the deputy head of a monitoring team from the Organization for Security and Co-

A Ukrainian official said Monday that data from the recovered flight recorders show that Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 crashed due to a massive, explosive loss of pressure after being punctured multiple times by shrapnel. Andriy Lysenko, spokesman for Ukraine's national security council,

Donetsk said on Twitter that fighting took place in the village of Rozsypne, where some of the wreckage still lays strewn and uncollected.

A rebel military leader, Igor Ivanov, told Russian state news agency RIA-Novosti that the village had fallen into government hands, but that information could not immediately be confirmed.

And in a possible indication of sagging morale within the rebels' ranks, the deputy leader of the rebels in Donetsk announced Monday that his immediate superior, Alexander Borodai, had left for Russia. Viktor Antyufeyev, who is a Russian national like Borodai, said he will take over as the separatist government's acting prime minister.

The rising loss of life was underlined by a report released Monday by the United Nations.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights said that at least 1,129 people have been killed between mid-April, when fighting began, and July 26. The report said at least 3,442 people had been wounded and more than 100,000 people had left their homes. A U.N. report from mid-June put the death toll at 356.

Navi Pillay, the U.N.'s top human rights official, also called for a quick investigation into the downing of the plane, which she said may be a war crime.

The U.N. said rebel groups continue to "abduct, detain, torture and execute people kept as hostages in order to intimidate" the population in the east. It said rule of law had collapsed in the rebel-held areas and that 812 people had been abducted in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions since mid-April. □



**A woman walks past a damaged school in the city of Lisichansk, Luhansk region, eastern Ukraine. Panicky residents in an eastern Ukrainian town fled their homes Monday carrying a few possessions in plastic bags and small suitcases as shells exploded in the distance, fighting that also prevented an international police team from reaching the area where the Malaysia Airlines plane was downed.**

(AP Photo/Dmitry Lovetsky)

also prevented an international police team from reaching the area where the Malaysia Airlines plane was downed.

"Mom, hang in there," exclaimed a weeping woman who was fleeing Shakhtarsk with her mother. Associated Press reporters saw a high-rise apartment block in the town being hit by at least two rounds of artillery.

The fighting there and elsewhere in the area kept Dutch and Australian police for the second day from reaching the site where the plane crashed after being shot from the sky. They had

operation in Europe. "We are sick and tired of being interrupted by gunfights, despite the fact that we have agreed that there should be a ceasefire."

The plane was downed on July 17 while flying over a part of eastern Ukraine where government forces and pro-Russia separatist rebels have been fighting for months. Ukrainian and Western officials say the plane was shot down by a rebel missile, most likely by mistake, and that Russia supplied the weapon or trained rebels to use it. Both the rebels and Moscow deny that.

said the plane suffered "massive explosive decompression" after it was hit by fragments he said came from a missile.

There were signs that government forces were gaining some ground in their fight with the rebels.

Ukraine's Defense Ministry said Ukrainian troops entered Shakhtarsk, although checkpoints blocking the western entrance into town remain under rebel control. It also said fighting was taking place in Snizhne, which lies directly south of the crash site, and in other towns in the east.

Meanwhile rebels in



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## Oil depot ablaze amid clashes in Libyan capital

**M. YOUSSEF**  
**Associated Press**

**CAIRO (AP)** — A fire at the oil depot for the airport in Libya's capital raged out of control Monday after being struck in the cross-fire of warring militias battling for control of the airfield, the latest violence to plague the country as foreigners flee the chaos.

Libya's interim government said in a statement that the fire could trigger a "humanitarian and environmental disaster" in Tripoli, appealing for "international help" to extinguish the inferno. It did not say what it specifically needed.

The blaze had spread to a second depot by Monday afternoon, the government said. It was unclear if there were any injuries from the fire.

"The government appeals to all concerned parties to immediately stop firing as the situation has become very grave," the government said.

Libyan television stations called on residents to evacuate areas within a 5-kilometer (3-mile) radius of the airport. Many Libyan families scrambled

to leave. Black smoke billowed over the Tripoli skyline.

Mohammed al-Harari, the spokesman for the Libyan National Oil Company,

Fire trucks from several nearby cities and towns have been deployed to help extinguish the blaze, said a Libyan security official, speaking on condition

western city of Misrata — launched a surprise assault on the airport, which has been under control of a rival militia from the western mountain town of Zintan.



**Black smoke billows over the skyline as a fire at the oil depot for the airport rages out of control after being struck in the crossfire of warring militias battling for control of the airfield, in Tripoli, Libya Monday, July 28, 2014.**  
(AP Photo/Mohammed Ben Khalifa)

said the oil depot had a capacity of 6 million liters (1.6 million gallons) and that if the fire was not brought under control, it could ignite liquid gas nearby.

of anonymity because he is not authorized to talk to journalists.

The battle for control of the airport began two weeks ago when Islamist-led militias — mostly from the

It wasn't clear whose fire started the oil depot blaze. The Health Ministry said Sunday that the fighting has so far killed 79 people and wounded more than 400.□

## HK democracy news site folds, citing pressure

**HONG KONG (AP)** — A popular Hong Kong pro-democracy website has closed, citing political pressure, the latest sign of mounting tensions as the semiautonomous Chinese city braces for a possible shutdown of its financial center by activists fighting Beijing's desire to limit democratic reforms.

In a letter posted on the House News website over the weekend, one of the site's founders said he and his family were "terrified" by Hong Kong's political atmosphere.

"To act like a normal citizen, a normal media outlet and to do something right for society is not easy, it's even terrifying," said Tony Tsoi. "The ongoing political struggle makes people very anxious." He said a number of democracy advocates had been followed and smeared. Tensions are soaring as Hong Kong becomes increasingly divided over democratic reform. Hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets this month to press for full democracy, while Beijing and the Hong Kong government insist candidates for the city's top leader should be chosen by a committee. Activists have alarmed Beijing with a plan to rally 10,000 people to blockade the city's financial district if authorities fail to come up with reforms in coming months that meet international standards.

Tsoi, a businessman, founded the site with three others in July 2012, in time to campaign against a government plan to introduce "moral and national education" in schools that many saw as pro-Beijing "brainwashing."□

## Sleepy city focus of North Korea tourism push

**ERIC TALMADGE**  
**Associated Press**

**WONSAN, North Korea (AP)** — Where do you go in North Korea if you're in the mood for a barbecue by the beach, maybe some pier-side fishing, or a dip in the ocean?

For many North Korean vacationers, that place has long been the sleepy port city of Wonsan, which is now the focus of one of North Korean leader Kim

Jong Un's most talked-about pet projects — a campaign to transform the country into a haven for tourism. That may seem far-fetched, since international sanctions over North Korea's nuclear weapons program have severely limited trade, and infrastructure and security restrictions make travel in the country difficult. For now, most beachgoers in Wonsan are locals — honeymooners,

families with small children or college students taking a break from their studies. But North Korea is targeting places like Wonsan for development projects — its new luxury ski resort at Masik Pass is just a short drive away — by creating special tourism zones across the country to accommodate foreign guests.

If that plan succeeds, Wonsan could see busier days. With the summer season

just beginning, Chinese tourists, who because of their countries' generally friendly relations are the main target of North Korea's campaign, are already starting to flow in. And although Japanese tourism is still probably a long way off, relations with Japan, once a major source of trade and tourism via a ferry link with Wonsan, have also recently started to improve.□



## 3 Pakistanis die as Facebook photo sets off Muslim rampage

**WAQAR GILLANI**

© 2014 New York Times

**LAHORE, Pakistan** - A woman and two of her young granddaughters were burned to death Sunday night in the eastern city of Gujranwala after a member of their Ahmadi minority sect was accused of posting a blasphemous picture to Facebook, the police said.

The mob of roughly 1,000 people began rampaging through an Ahmadi neighborhood after being alerted to the photo, setting houses on fire and injuring at least eight other people, according to the police.

Ahmadi belong to a reform sect rooted in Islam, but under Pakistani law they are forbidden to identify themselves as Muslim. They come under frequent attack, and have often been targeted under Pakistan's harsh blasphemy laws. The blasphemy accusation was brought against Aqib Saleem, an 18-year-old Ahmadi man who was alleged to have uploaded a picture of the Kaaba, the sacred shrine in Mec-

ca toward which Muslims turn when they pray, with a seminude white woman sitting on top. Officials said that a Muslim friend of Saleem's, Saddam Hussein, 18, noticed the Facebook post and alerted others in the neighborhood. Soon, a crowd of about 400, including some Muslim clerics, reached a nearby police station and urged the police to register a blasphemy case. Meanwhile, the larger mob began rampaging around Ahmadi houses in the Arfat neighborhood of Gujranwala, an industrial city in Punjab province.

Ahmadi community leaders accuse the police of looking the other way while the violent mob ransacked property, obstructed a fire brigade truck and threw stones at ambulances on their way to the scene. At least eight houses were set on fire.

As the flames spread, Bushra Bibi, 55, and two of her granddaughters, one just 7, were trapped in their house and died of smoke inhalation, officials said. Another Ahmadi woman, who was

seven months' pregnant, had a miscarriage.

A police official said cases were registered against 400 attackers. "They looted everything and did not even leave windows behind," a police official said.

"They are killing innocent

people over fabricated issues," said Salimuddin, a local Ahmadi spokesman. He claimed that the accused teenager's Facebook password had been stolen, and that someone offensively edited the picture of the holy Muslim site.

Attacks against religious minorities have become a norm in Pakistan, where Islamic extremist groups have been operating more openly than ever and have been able to harass and kill minorities with near-total impunity. □



Pakistani police officers examine a house of a family belonging to the Ahmadi sect, which was torched by angry mob in Gujranwala, Pakistan, Monday, July 28, 2014. A Pakistani mob burned down several homes belonging to the minority sect in the country's east, killing a woman and her two granddaughters in riots following rumors about blasphemous postings on Facebook, police said Monday.

(AP Photo/K.M. Chaudary)

## Rights group: Torture in Brazil still a problem

**STAN LEHMAN**

Associated Press

**SAO PAULO (AP)** — Torture remains a serious problem in Brazil despite government efforts to curb it, a leading human rights group said Monday.

The New York-based Human Rights Watch said in an emailed statement that it found evidence showing that since 2010, security forces and prison authorities practiced cruel and inhumane treatment against 64 people in their custody. The group said more than 150 police officers and prison guards were involved in torture and cruel treatment inside detention centers, police stations and vehicles in the states of Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Bahia, Espirito Santo and Parana.

Ideli Salvatti, head of the government's Human Rights Secretariat, welcomed the group's observations.

"They helped to spotlight what we have been saying for years — that because of many factors like 300 years of slavery and several military dictatorships, torture has unfortunately become an acceptable and ingrained practice in our country," Salvatti said by telephone.

She also praised the report for recognizing the 2013 law creating a National Mechanism to Prevent and Combat Torture.

Human Rights Watch said that the abuses often occur in the first 24 hours of police custody and that detainees typically must wait three or more months before they see a judge to whom they can directly report the abuse.

It urged the Senate to approve a measure that would ensure that suspects appear before a judge within 24 hours of their arrest to enable any victims

of torture to report abuses when evidence of their mistreatment is still fresh. The law also would help prevent confessions obtained through torture from being used in court, it added.

The statement quotes Maria Laura Canineu, Brazil Human Rights Watch director, as saying: "As long as detainees wait months to see a judge, they're far less likely to report what they've suffered — and by then, the physical evidence may well have disappeared." The group said official data suggest "impunity in cases of serious abuses by police and prison guards is the norm."

Between January 2011 and July 2013, it said, Sao Paulo law enforcement officials received 122 complaints of torture, bodily injury, and ill-treatment, "none of which have resulted in sanctions against the police officers involved." □



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## US Officials:

# 'Threats' behind release of Venezuela general

HANNAH DREIER

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— U.S. officials said Monday they believe Venezuela used "threats" against Aruba to pressure it to release a powerful former general who is wanted by

erlands, and others" to obtain the release of former military intelligence chief Hugo Carvajal, said a statement from U.S. State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki.

"This is not the way law enforcement matters should

he was freed from custody in Aruba, a Dutch Caribbean territory that is 15 miles off the coast of the South American country.

Appearing before cheering supporters at the national convention of the ruling socialist party, Presi-

him," he said, calling his return a "great satisfaction." Aruban authorities had acted on a request from U.S. prosecutors when they arrested Carvajal last week as he arrived to become his nation's consul. Venezuela protested the detention, citing diplomatic immunity, but an Aruba judge on Friday determined Carvajal had yet to be accredited and ordered that he be held pending extradition to the United States.

Venezuela responded by suspending all flights to and from the popular tourist destination as well as nearby Dutch Caribbean territories, stranding several hundred passengers. After several hours of negotiations between the two governments, flights were allowed to resume Saturday. The flight ban was considered an economic blow to Aruba since Venezuela is its second-largest tourism market behind the United States.

U.S. authorities have alleged that Carvajal is one of several high-ranking Venezuelan military and law enforcement officials who provided haven to major drug traffickers from neighboring Colombia and helped them export large amounts of U.S.-bound cocaine through Venezuela. □



Former Venezuelan general Hugo Carvajal arrives at the Queen Beatrix International Airport in Oranjestad, Aruba, Sunday July 27, 2014 after being released by authorities. Carvajal was detained in Aruba on U.S. drug charges, released by the Dutch Caribbean island Sunday and sent home, authorities said Sunday.

(AP Photo/Pedro Famous Diaz)

the United States for alleged drug trafficking. "We are disturbed by credible reports that have come to us indicating the Venezuelan government threatened the governments of Aruba, the Neth-

be handled." The State Department did not elaborate on the nature of the threats it believes were used. Carvajal returned to a hero's welcome in Venezuela late Sunday, shortly after

dent Nicolas Maduro threw his arm around the diminutive Carvajal and the two raised their arms in a gesture of triumph. Venezuela's diplomatic efforts to free Carvajal succeeded, Maduro said. "We rescued

## AP: Abu Sayyaf kills 21 Filipinos in road attacks

TERESA CERROJANO

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP)

— Abu Sayyaf gunmen attacked Filipino civilians traveling to celebrate the end of Ramadan with their families on Monday, killing 21, including at least six children, in a brazen road attack that was the bloodiest in recent years by the violent militant group, police and military officials said. Eleven other civilians were wounded as the group traveled in two vans in a coastal village in Talipao town in predominantly Muslim Sulu province, where the militants have survived in jungle camps despite years of U.S.-backed Philippine military offensives. About 40 to 50 Abu Sayyaf militants armed with assault rifles opened fire on the vans, marine Brig. Gen. Martin Pinto and other military officials said. The motive was not immediately clear, but Pinto said some of the dead belonged to a civilian security force and were engaged in a clan feud with the Abu Sayyaf.

Violent clan wars, known as "rido," have complicated security worries in the country's south, which is already mired in decades-long Muslim rebellions.

Officials said they were pursuing the militants after the attack, but there's no word yet if any of them have been killed or captured. Among those killed in the attack were at least four members of a Talipao civilian security force called Barangay Police Action Team that has been helping the military fight the jungle-based militants in recent months, Pinto said. Armed forces spokesman Lt. Col. Ramon Zagala condemned "this heinous atrocity that victimized innocent civilians," adding that the military "will continue its pursuit operations until those responsible are brought to justice." "This attack cannot be justified by any ideology and shows the Abu Sayyaf's terroristic nature," Zagala said. □

## Argentina in last-ditch effort to avert default

A. CALATRAVA

LUIS HENAO

Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina

(AP) — Argentina's government said Monday it will make another effort to reach a deal with U.S. creditors ahead of a looming deadline that risks sending the country into its second default in 13 years.

Cabinet Chief Jorge Capitanich said that an Argentine delegation will travel to New York and meet a court-appointed mediator there on Tuesday, just a day ahead of the deadline.

"Argentina's position is to reach a dialogue that es-

tablishes fair, legal and sustainable conditions for negotiation with 100 percent of the bondholders," Capitanich said in a press conference at the presidential palace.

But the mediator, Daniel A. Pollack, said in a statement that while the Argentines will meet him, they have not yet accepted his recommendation of face-to-face talks with the plaintiffs in the dispute, led by New York billionaire Paul Singer's NML Capital Ltd.

Those creditors bought Argentine bonds on the cheap and rejected the government's restructuring offers following its record

\$100 billion default in 2001. They are demanding payment of some \$1.5 billion in unpaid debts.

By Wednesday, Argentina has to make a payment to other creditors who accepted the restructured bonds or fall into default. But U.S. federal District Judge Thomas Griesa has forbidden Argentina to pay them without paying the holdouts as well.

In June, he ordered Bank of New York Mellon Corp. to return to Argentina \$539 million it had deposited to pay holders of restructured debt.

Argentina already is struggling with recession, a short-

age of dollars and one of the world's highest inflation rates. But the government says default would have no effect on most Argentines. "There's no link to the economic activity. It's independent to the evolution of these restructuring processes," Capitanich said, adding that Argentina's cash flow is guaranteed by the surplus in its trade balance and recent investment deals signed with China.

Many economic analysts and bond buyers agree that the effect of a default would be limited because, in contrast to 2001, Argentina is now solvent. □





## The Radisson Postcard Project Promotes Art Education!



**PALM BEACH** - The Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa invited students participating in this summer's RBC Royal Bank sponsored Art Rules Aruba to spend a day at the resort with their cameras. The art education program, celebrating its fifth anniversary in 2014, unfolded at Cas Di Cultura over two weeks in July, offering 9 disciplines including Dance, Theater, Creative Media, Fashion, DJ, Rap & Poetry, Street Art, Music & Performance and Culinary Arts. The Creative Media students guided by interna-

tional teachers Cye Wong-Loi-Sing & Omar Brown conceived an interesting assignment, that of creat-

ing the new Radisson Postcards. Nunette Maduro, PR & Communication Executive,



reports the resort wanted to offer a fresh and unique service to its valued guests by making irresistible free postcards available to share with family members and friends who did not get to go on vacation. The idea to collaborate with Art Rules Aruba was enthusiastically received and the students indeed captured the essence of the resort, its abundant beauty and spaciousness,



the lush gardens and in general its tropical charm and splendor through their lenses, then manipulated the images to serve as postcards. Twin program founders, Ayra & Ira Kip of the Pan-

and engaged sponsors the exciting program couldn't exist and couldn't offer the annual enrichment to Aruba's budding artists, with more than two hundred teenagers between the ages of 13 and 26, de-



cake Gallery Foundation are grateful for the private sector support of the program and stated that without the help of generous

veloping their personal talents. Pictured here the Radisson Postcard Project becomes a reality. □





## The Kitchen Table by White Entertains Press Members for an 8-Course Dinner

**EAGLE BEACH** - The local press was recently welcomed by Hotelier Jan Van Nes and his staffers for a tour of Blue Residences and an unforgettable night at The Kitchen Table, by White.

Blue Residences, the first luxury condo resort on Aruba's famous Eagle Beach in 20 years, is currently under the final phase of development and will consist of three residential towers. The first tower was occupied in early 2014, offering unobstructed views of the ocean, elevated ceilings in the bedrooms, living rooms and dining rooms, private Jacuzzi terraces, fully appointed kitchens featuring upscale appliances and wireless internet throughout.

The on-site amenities of Blue Residences include a private beach, poolside service, a full time concierge, a workout room, a mini store and an elaborate food & beverage operation by Chef Urvin Croes, who exclusively developed the Mirador Terrace, the Frangipani Bar and a culinary studio by the name of Kitchen Table by White, to serve resort guests and the general public.

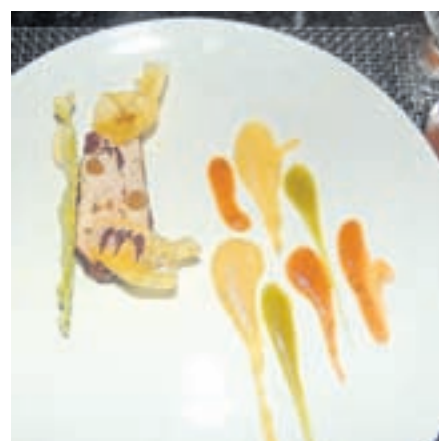
The award winning chef, his culinary brigade and his service staff joined project manager Alberto Perret Gentil, and his wife Veronica in pampering press members at the end of their informative resort inspection tour.

The evening took off with bottomless Prosecco flutes, on the terrace overlooking Eagle Beach and the theater of endless sunset. Chef Urvin's 8-course interpretation of Aruban cuisine specialties started with an individual mixed hors d'oeuvres tray, including totally reinvented traditional snacks.

Once inside the air-conditioned dining room the VIPs were treated to fresh fish Tiradito with passion fruit and tiny cocolishi, crustaceans, flavored with banana di reef, a slightly salty

seaside weed, followed by a deconstructed Snapper Creole, with miniature Pan Bati, and pickled onions, a savory slice of pork with a deep fried kale chip and grapes, and a melt-in-your-mouth beef stoba, a local stew, with grilled onion and carrot, like nothing before. The evening in the culinary studio allowed press members a front row seat to the exhibition kitchen where dishes were prepared and plated as part of the evening's great spectacle. A symphonic coconut and pineapple dessert went well with the acoustic guitar musician.

The team assembled by Executive Chef Urvin Croes includes Hemer Zambrano tapas chef, Carlito Castillo-manager/sommelier, Ludoviko Henriquez, sous chef, Moises Ramirez and Jean Claude Werleman, both cooks, with lovely



waitresses Laura Croes, Perlita and Shirley!

Press members truly took time off to unwind and savor the incredible flavors, impeccably paired by an excellent selection of wines, as witnessed in our images. □



## With Family and Friends on Aruba; Tom & Meredyth Graham Celebrate Their 50th Wedding Anniversary!

**EAGLE BEACH** - Tom and Meredyth Graham, of Media, Pennsylvania have been visiting Aruba and staying at the Casa del Mar Beach Resort for 26 years straight, and during this year's visit they are celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary with family in Aruba!

Tom and Meredyth return year after year to enjoy the company of their family and friends in one of the world's most inviting settings: perfect sugar-white sand beaches, cool island breezes, hot nightlife and some of the world's best restaurants! Tom and Meredyth also enjoy returning to Aruba because the island is so safe and friendly, and the people here treat everyone like family!

Their friends and family at the Casa del Mar, at the Aruba Today Newspaper, and across the island of



Aruba in general wishes them a most wonderful 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary, and many more beautiful years of celebrating life together! □



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Bar offers a daily happy hour from 4 till 6 pm. Last but not least our Pizzeria del Mar that offers a variety of pizzas. ☐



ners, parasailing, tubing and much more. Our desks are located at Casa del Mar (pool deck), Playa Linda resort next to the juice bar, Holiday Inn Desk and at the Concierge & Pelican Pier desk located between Holiday Inn hotel & Playa Linda Resort. Pelican Nest Restaurant offers an impressive selection of fresh seafood (caught daily by our own fleet), International dishes and a re-



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*Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "from the pier to your plate!"*



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Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



Winners of Intl. LUHRS Marina Group Blue Marlin Release Tournament 2009



### Catch your own dinner

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You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to [www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com)

**Driftwood Restaurant.** This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 [www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com) Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.





## Judge OKs record-setting \$2 billion sale of Clippers

BRIAN MELLEY

Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — A judge ruled against Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling on Monday in his attempt to block the \$2 billion sale of the Los Angeles Clippers to former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer. In the ruling, Superior Court Judge Michael Levanas sided with Sterling's estranged wife Shelly Sterling, who burst into tears when the ruling was announced. "I can't believe it's over. I feel good," she said.

Shelly Sterling negotiated the sale of the team after the 80-year-old billionaire was banned by the NBA for making offensive remarks about blacks.

She sought approval from a probate judge for the deal she struck after removing her husband from the trust that owned the team when doctors found he had signs of Alzheimer's disease and couldn't manage his affairs.

Donald Sterling claimed his wife deceived him about the medical exams.

He later revoked the trust after she negotiated the record-setting sales price and his lawyers argued that the move killed the deal. They said the case didn't belong in probate court because the trust had been dissolved.

The ruling in Los Angeles County Superior Court is unlikely to put an end to the bizarre saga that began in April when a recording surfaced of Sterling scolding his young girlfriend for bringing black men to Clippers games.

Continued on Page 22

# BIG SHOW

## Ortiz homers, BoSox ends Rays run at 9



Boston Red Sox's David Ortiz, right, and Dustin Pedroia react after Ortiz hit a three-run home run off Tampa Bay Rays starting pitcher Chris Archer during the third inning of a baseball game Sunday, July 27, 2014, in St. Petersburg, Fla. Red Sox's Pedroia and Daniel Nava also scored on the hit.

Associated Press  
Page 20



# Recovered from illness, Serena ready for return

RICK EYMER

Associated Press

STANFORD, California (AP)

— Serena Williams finally realized what happened days later, when she was allowed to get out of bed. Williams said she was barely aware of how sick she was as she tried to play through a viral infection that caused her to lose equilibrium during a women's doubles match with sister Venus at Wimbledon. It was only later, when she was able to clear her head, that she realized the seriousness of her situation. "It was interesting and I was scared after," Williams said.

"I didn't realize how I felt until later. In the moment I didn't realize how sick I was. It's weird but that's



Serena Williams prepares to play a return with partner Venus Williams of the U.S in their women's doubles match against Kristina Barrios of Germany and Stefanie Voegele of Switzerland at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships in Wimbledon, London, Tuesday July 1, 2014.

Associated Press

nis courts everywhere you looked."

She practiced in the morning and took it easy the rest of the day.

"I was running and swimming and jumping in the ocean," Williams said. "I tried to stay away from the sharks."

That's pretty good motivation. I didn't want to be eaten by sharks."

Williams maintained that after three days in bed, she had already moved on and stopped thinking about it.

She also ignored internet rumors.

Looking comfortable and relaxed, the world's No. 1 player said she's ready to renew her pursuit of excellence on the court.

Williams meets the Czech Republic's Karolina Pliskova on Wednesday in the second round of the Bank of West Classic.

Pliskova beat Japan's Kimiko Date-Krumm, 6-1, 6-3, on Monday.

"I've always felt good about this tournament and just being here," she said. "This has always been a special place for me."

She used the Bank of the West to restart her career in 2011, recording her first WTA title in over a year. She was ranked No. 175 at the time and finished the year No. 12.

Williams, who has appeared in numerous television shows, is shooting a movie in Toronto. "I don't know if that's supposed to be secret. I love doing films, I always have."

Third-seeded Angelique Kerber watched Williams practice and doesn't see anything wrong in her game.

"She is back, for sure," Kerber said. "She's the favorite here and she is a champion."

We'll see what happens in the next few days."

In other first-round matches, qualifier Sachia Vickery topped Shuai Zhang, 6-1, 6-2 and qualifier Naomi Osaka defeated Samantha Stosur, 4-6, 7-5 (7), 7-5.

"This was a real good confidence booster for me," Vickery said.

the fight in me. I never know when to say when." She would have continued had not Venus insisted she get off the court.

"She kept saying, 'walk off the court, I'm the older sister and I say you have to leave.'" Williams said. "I'm feeling really good right now and I'm happy to be here."

Williams said she will undergo a series of tests at the end of the season.

"I was really ill," she said. "I got to thinking about a lot of things and because of family history, I'll get the tests done and we'll go from there."

Williams apparently expected to play in Bastad the following week until her mother nixed the idea.

Doctors wouldn't let her leave her room, so she got some much-needed rest before resuming a full schedule that included a working vacation and a movie shoot.

"I was going to stay in Europe and play in the tournament," she said. "Going to Croatia was unexpected. I'm glad I went. It was so pretty."

Williams' long-time hitting partner Sascha Bajin suggested the trip, telling her "there are more tennis courts than people there. And there were ten-

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## NL Capsules

# First-place LA Dodgers complete sweep of Giants

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — Carl Crawford hit an RBI triple to back Ryu Hyun-jin's third straight victory as the division-leading Los Angeles Dodgers completed a sweep of the San Francisco Giants with a 4-3 victory Sunday.

Ryu (12-5) moved within two wins of his rookie total last year and improved to 4-1 in five outings at AT&T Park, where in one dominant weekend the Dodgers made quite a statement to take over the NL West's top spot.

In his Giants debut, Jake Peavy threw a pair of wild pitches in the fifth as the Dodgers went ahead on Hanley Ramirez's RBI single ahead of Crawford's triple to the corner in deep right field.

Matt Kemp singled twice and the Dodgers leave the Bay Area with a 1 1/2-game division lead after outscoring the Giants 17-4. San Francisco suffered its first three-game sweep in the rivalry since June 24-26, 2013, at Dodger Stadium. The last Dodgers sweep at AT&T Park came July 27-29, 2012.

PHILLIES 4, DIAMONDBACKS 2

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Ryan Howard homered in his second game since a three-game benching and scored the go-ahead run on an overturned call at the plate as Philadelphia beat Arizona.

With the score 2-2 in the sixth, Howard walked with two outs against Vidal Nuno (0-2). Marlon Byrd popped

up to short right field, where second baseman Didi Gregorius backpedaled slowly, settled under the ball and allowed it to kick off his glove and bounce toward center.

Ender Inciarte picked up the ball and threw to the plate, where catcher Miguel Montero blocked Howard's path. Umpire Dale Scott signaled out, but the call was reversed in a video review.

Roberto Hernandez (5-8) allowed two runs and four hits in seven innings, and Jonathan Papelbon pitched a two-hit ninth for his 25th save.

NATIONALS 4, REDS 2

**CINCINNATI (AP)** — Doug Fister (10-2) allowed three hits in seven shutout innings and Adam LaRoche drove in two runs and Anthony Rendon added an RBI single in the ninth. Cincinnati has lost eight of nine since the All-Star break while hitting .178 (50-for-281) in that span.

Devin Mesoraco's two-run double in the ninth inning off Rafael Soriano allowed the Reds to avoid their 11th shutout loss. Soriano regrouped to get the final three outs for his 200th save. The teams went the three-game series without hitting a home run, the first time in the 12-year history of Great American Ball Park that three consecutive games have been played without a home run.

METS 2, BREWERS 0

**MILWAUKEE (AP)** — Lucas Duda hit a two-run homer in the sixth off Jimmy Nelson



Los Angeles Dodgers' Hanley Ramirez (13) signals he is safe after scoring past San Francisco Giants catcher Buster Posey in the fifth inning of a baseball game Sunday, July 27, 2014, in San Francisco. Ramirez scored on a triple by Carl Crawford.

Associated Press

(1-2), Duda's third homer in four days in Milwaukee.

Rookie Jacob deGrom (5-5) allowed four hits in 6 1-3 innings. Jenrry Mejia got his 15th save when Lyle Overbay grounded out with two on.

CARDINALS 1, CUBS 0

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Adam Wainwright (13-5) allowed five hits in seven innings and Matt Holliday homered in the first off rookie Kyle Hendricks (1-1).

Trevor Rosenthal pitched the ninth for his 32nd save, completing a six-hitter.

St. Louis won two of three at the Cubs, who have not won a series at Wrigley Field since taking two of three from Miami from June 6-8. Chicago has lost 15 of

19 overall since July 15, the day they traded All-Star pitcher Jeff Samardzija to Oakland.

BRAVES 8, PADRES 3

**ATLANTA (AP)** — Chris Johnson and Ryan Doumit each drove in two runs during Atlanta's six-run third inning.

Mike Minor (4-6) allowed three runs and eight hits in 6 2-3 innings, and Atlanta roughed up Eric Stults (3-13) for six runs and six hits in six innings.

A few thousand fans arrived early to watch the Hall of Fame ceremonies on the Turner Field video board. Among the inductees were former Braves managers Bobby Cox and Joe Torre and pitchers Tom Glavine

and Greg Maddux.

PIRATES 7, ROCKIES 5

**DENVER (AP)** — Josh Harrison had four hits, including an eighth-inning homer on the first pitch by Rex Brothers (3-5) that broke a 5-5 tie. Gregory Polanco homered four pitches later. Tony Watson (7-1) gave up a run in two innings of relief to get the win and Mark Melancon worked the ninth for his 19th save.

In other NL games it was Washington 4, Cincinnati 2; Philadelphia 4, Arizona 2; Miami 4, Houston 2; N.Y. Mets 2, Milwaukee 0; St. Louis 1, Chicago Cubs 0; Pittsburgh 7, Colorado 5; Atlanta 8, San Diego 3; L.A. Dodgers 4, San Francisco 3.



## AL Capsules

# Ortiz's homer helps Red Sox end losing streak

**ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP)** — David Ortiz hit a three-run homer as the Boston Red Sox beat Tampa Bay 3-2 Sunday to end a five-game losing streak and stop the Rays' longest winning streak in 10 years at nine games.

Ortiz's 25th home run came in the third off Chris Archer (6-6) after a walk and Dustin Pedroia's infield single. Ortiz's homer was his fifth in seven games and his 29th at Tropicana Field, most among visiting players.

Desmond Jennings hit a two-run double in the third against Allen Webster (1-0), who pitched 5 1-3 innings in his first major league appearance this season.

Koji Uehara pitched the ninth for his 21st save, striking out the last three batters.

**BLUE JAYS 5, YANKEES 4 NEW YORK (AP)** — Dione Navarro hit a go-ahead single with two outs in the ninth as Toronto rallied after wasting three leads for its first series win in the Bronx since Aug. 27-29, 2012.

After snapping a 17-game skid at Yankee Stadium on Saturday, Toronto did not relent in the humidity. Jose Bautista reached on a fielder's choice against David Robertson (1-3) in the ninth, stole second without a throw and scored on Navarro's liner to center field.



**Boston Red Sox's David Ortiz watches his three-run home run off Tampa Bay Rays starting pitcher Chris Archer during the third inning of a baseball game Sunday, July 27, 2014, in St. Petersburg, Fla. Catching for the Rays is Curt Casali.**

Associated Press

Aaron Sanchez (1-0) gave up Carlos Beltran's tying RBI hit in the eighth. Munenori Kawasaki had put Toronto ahead with a sacrifice fly that followed Dellin Betances' two-base error on a pickoff attempt.

**ATHLETICS 9, RANGERS 3 ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)** — John Jaso drove in three runs as Oakland downed Texas 9-3.

Jaso had a run-scoring single during the Athletics' five-run second inning and added a two-run double in the fifth. Oakland's first

three batters — Jaso, Stephen Vogt and Yoenis Cespedes — each had a double and a single, and Josh Reddick added three singles.

Scott Kazmir (12-3) moved into a tie for the American League lead while allowing seven hits in five innings. He walked two and struck out two.

Adam Rosales had a two-run homer in the second for Texas, and Adrian Beltre added a solo shot off reliever Evan Scribner in the eighth.

Miles Mikolas (1-3) allowed seven earned runs on seven hits and four walks in 4 2-3 innings.

**MARLINS 4, ASTROS 2 HOUSTON (AP)** — Garrett Jones and Marcell Ozuna homered for Miami, which completed a three game sweep. Houston has lost five in a row and eight of 10.

Jones' homer capped a three-run first for the Marlins, and Ozuna padded the lead with his solo shot in the sixth. Miami has won seven of eight following a

six-game skid.

Jacob Turner (4-6) allowed one run and six hits in 5 2-3 innings, and Steve Cishek allowed one run in the ninth before getting his 26th save.

Collin McHugh (4-9) gave up four runs and seven hits 6 1-3 innings with nine strikeouts.

**TWINS 4, WHITE SOX 3**

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)** — Sam Fuld hit a tiebreaking, two-run single off Javy Guerra in a three-run seventh inning as Minnesota avoided a four-game sweep.

Danny Santana had two RBIs for the last-place Twins, who won for just the 11th time in their last 30 games. Chicago led 2-1 in the seventh when Minnesota loaded the bases against Ronald Belisario (3-7).

Jared Burton (2-2) pitched a scoreless inning, and Glen Perkins retired Gordon Beckham on a bases-loaded flyout for his 25th save.

**INDIANS 10, ROYALS 3**

**KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP)** — Carlos Santana hit a pair of two-run homers, giving him six homers in six games as Cleveland ended Kansas City's winning streak at five games.

Ryan Raburn and Yan Gomes also homered for the Indians, who stopped their four-game losing streak and ended Kansas City's five-game winning streak. Danny Salazar (3-4) gave up three runs and seven hits over seven innings. Bruce Chen (2-3) allowed up six runs and eight hits in five-plus innings.

**ANGELS 2, TIGERS 1**

**ANAHEIM, California (AP)** — David Freese hit a tiebreaking homer off Joba Chamberlain (1-4) in the eighth inning as Los Angeles won its third straight.

Erick Aybar scored from second base on Rick Porcello's poor pickoff throw in the fifth for the Angels, who improved the majors' second-best record to 63-41 in the finale of a 10-game homestand.

Hector Santiago and three relievers combined on a three-hitter.

## Former Georgia runner dies in car accident

**CORDELE, Georgia (AP)** — Former University of Georgia 400-meter runner Torrin Lawrence has died in a car accident. He was 25.

Lawrence ran for the United States in the opening round of the 4x400 relay at the IAAF World Relays in the Bahamas in May. The team went on to capture the gold medal.

Crisp County Sheriff Billy Hancock said Lawrence was traveling along Interstate 75 about 1:40 a.m. Monday local time when a tire blew on the car and

became disabled in the center lane. Lawrence got out to call 911 when a tractor-trailer came over the crest and struck the car, knocking the vehicle into Lawrence.

"We were devastated to learn of Torrin's passing early this morning," USA Track and Field CEO Max Siegel said.

"Torrin represented USATF with pride and passion, and had an incredible future ahead of him. We join those who will miss him deeply."



**In this June 20, 2013 file photo, Torrin Lawrence reacts after his heat in the senior men's 400-meter dash at the U.S. Championships athletics meet in Des Moines, Iowa.**

Associated Press

Hancock said Lawrence was returning home to Jacksonville, Florida, after training in Athens, Georgia,

where he won an U.S. college NCAA indoor title for University of Georgia in 2010.



## Ivory Latta leads streaking Mystics past fadding Dream

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Ivory Latta scored 21 points and Kara Lawson added 14 as the surging Washington Mystics moved into second place in the Eastern Conference with a 77-67 win over the Atlanta Dream on Sunday.

The Mystics (13-13) have won four straight and six of seven games. Washington trails East-leading Atlanta by three games.

The Dream (15-9) have lost a season-high four games. The last three setbacks have come without head coach Michael Cooper. Recently diagnosed with tongue cancer, Cooper remains on medical leave after undergoing surgery Thursday.

Sancho Lyttle led Atlanta with 19 points.

The Dream won the season series 3-1.

Washington took control with a 12-2 second half run and led by 11 in the fourth quarter. Latta and Lawson combined for 15 points in the final period.

LYNX 76, SUN 65

UNCASVILLE, Connecticut (AP) — Maya Moore had 17 points, seven rebounds and four assists to help the Lynx beat the Sun.

Rebekkah Brunson had nine points and 10 rebounds for the Lynx (20-6) and Janel McCarville had 11 points and seven rebounds. Seimone Augustus also scored 13. Kelsey Bone had 15 points and nine rebounds and Alyssa Thomas added eight points and nine rebounds for the Sun (10-16), who have lost 10 of 12. It was just the second game in which defending WNBA champion Minnesota had its entire team available. Brunson missed the first 24 games after knee surgery. Augustus returned Friday after being out eight games with a knee injury.

SHOCK 79, SKY 69

TULSA, Oklahoma (AP) — Glory Johnson scored 14 of her 15 points in the second half and had 11 rebounds to help the Tulsa Shock beat the Sky.

It was just Tulsa's second win in its last nine games.



Minnesota Lynx's Maya Moore, center, glides to the basket as Connecticut Sun's Kelsey Bone, left, and Chiney Ogumike, right, defend during the second half of a WNBA basketball game, Sunday, July 27, 2014, in Uncasville, Conn. The Lynx won 76-65.

Associated Press

Unable to find its offensive rhythm for most of the first three quarters, Tulsa finally found its stride finishing the third with an 11-2 run. Odyssey Sims tied the game 56-56 with a driving layup

with 18.8 seconds left in the period.

Through the game's first 27 minutes, Tulsa (9-17) had just 11 field goals and four assists. The Shock made 13 field goals on 11 assists over

the game's final 13 minutes. Allie Quigley and Epiphanny Prince each scored 14 points for the Sky (10-15), who lost for the seventh time in their last nine games. □

## Valeri lifts Portland Timbers past Montreal Impact, 3-2

**MONTREAL (AP)** — Argentina midfielder Diego Valeri broke a deadlock in the 82nd minute as the Portland Timbers held off Montreal 3-2 on Sunday to extend the Impact's losing

streak to five games in Major League Soccer.

Maximiliano Urruti and Will Johnson also scored for Portland, while Andres Romero and Maxim Tissot found the net for Montreal.

## All tickets claimed for LeBron's homecoming show

**AKRON, Ohio (AP)** — LeBron James' Ohio hometown says fans quickly claimed the thousands of tickets available for the homecoming event expected to be his first public appearance in the state since announcing his return to the Cleveland Cavaliers. The free tickets for the Aug. 8 show at InfoCision Stadium in Akron were released Monday and were gone within hours. Akron spokeswoman Stephanie York

won't divulge how many tickets were offered but says demand was overwhelming. She says organizers hope to make more available. York says the event is more of a show than a party or rally. The stadium holds more than 27,000 people, but it's unclear how much space will be used for the event.

James has created big buzz by returning to Cleveland four years after leaving for the Miami Heat. □



Vancouver Whitecaps goalkeeper David Ousted, of Denmark, jumps over FC Dallas' Adam Moffat, back, to make a save during the second half of an MLS soccer game in Vancouver, British Columbia, on Sunday, July 27, 2014.

Associated Press

Montreal assistant coach Mauro Biello directed the Impact after coach Frank Klopas was suspended for arguing with the referee following team's loss to

Real Salt Lake on Thursday. In Sunday's other match, Pedro Morales scored from a penalty in the 53rd minute to help the Vancouver Whitecaps draw 2-2 with

Dallas. Darren Mattocks opened the scoring for Vancouver in the 11th minute with his fifth goal of the season and third in three games. □



# Byron Scott says he will be LA Lakers' new coach

**GREG BEACHAM**

**AP Sports Writer**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — The Los Angeles Lakers have waited nearly three months to hire a new coach, and they're apparently making Byron Scott wait a few more days.

Scott, who won three NBA titles as a shooting guard for the Lakers, told a Los Angeles television station this weekend that he has been hired by the team, which hasn't had a coach since Mike D'Antoni resigned April 30.

"It feels fantastic," he told KCBS. "This is a dream come true. I always wanted to coach the Lakers, especially when I got to coaching. It's so unreal."

Yet Lakers General Manager Mitch Kupchak and owners Jeanie and Jim Buss remained quiet Sunday, extending their strange coach-less summer to the final days of July.

Sports website ESPN.com first reported Scott would take over the Lakers with a four-year, \$17 million contract.

Scott is undoubtedly qualified for the job after stints as a head coach with New Jersey, New Orleans and



**In this April 9, 2013, file photo, then-Cleveland Cavaliers coach Byron Scott watches the Cavaliers' NBA basketball game against the Indiana Pacers in Indianapolis.**

**Associated Press**

Cleveland. He was Kobe Bryant's rookie year with the Lakers in 1996-97, and

the superstar endorsed Scott for the job earlier this month.

"He was my rookie mentor when I first came in the league, so I had to do things like get him doughnuts and run errands for him, things like that," said Bryant, who played just six games during an injury-marred 2013-14 season. "We've had a tremendously close relationship throughout the years."

Los Angeles finished 27-55 last season, compiling the most losses in the 16-time NBA champions' history. The Lakers also missed the playoffs for just the third time in 38 seasons as the NBA's most glamorous club was reduced to ineptitude. Scott will be the Lakers' fifth head coach in just over three years, starting with Phil Jackson's departure after the 2010-11 season. D'Antoni, who replaced Mike Brown and interim coach Bernie Bickerstaff, resigned after going 67-87 in less than two seasons in charge.

Scott has been a head coach for parts of 13 NBA seasons, going 416-521 with the Nets, Hornets and Cavaliers. He led New Jer-

sey to back-to-back NBA Eastern Conference championships in 2002 and 2003, losing the NBA Finals each time.

Scott was the NBA's coach of the year in 2008, but he also has been fired from each of his three jobs.

Several candidates for the coaching job interviewed with the Lakers, including Lionel Hollins and George Karl, but Scott has been considered the front-runner for the job for several weeks.

He likely realizes could be inheriting a caretaker job with the Lakers, who are likely to struggle just for playoff contention for the next two seasons while Bryant's two-year, \$48.5 million contract eats up a huge chunk of their salary-cap space.

Los Angeles landed Julius Randle with the seventh pick in the draft, but struck out on every big-name free agent despite aggressively courting Carmelo Anthony and entertaining dreams of landing LeBron James.

The Lakers couldn't even retain Spaniard Pau Gasol, who spurned the team for a deal with the Chicago Bulls. □

## Clippers

**Continued from Page 17**

The NBA moved quickly to ban Sterling for life and fined him \$2.5 million.

Sterling was apologetic after the audio recording went viral, but his mea culpa backfired when he criticized Lakers great Magic Johnson, who had been photographed with Sterling's girlfriend, as a bad role model for kids because he had HIV. Sterling was roundly criticized from locker rooms to the Oval Office, where President Barack Obama called Sterling's remarks "incredibly offensive racist statements."

With the NBA threatening to seize the team and auction it,

Sterling initially gave his wife of 58 years permission to negotiate a sale but then refused to sign it.



**In this Nov. 12, 2010, file photo, Shelly Sterling sits with her husband, Donald Sterling, during the Los Angeles Clippers' NBA basketball game against the Detroit Pistons in Los Angeles.**

**Associated Press**

He said he would sue the league instead and then revoked the trust.

The nonjury trial held over several weeks focused mainly on whether Shelly

Sterling properly removed her husband as a trustee and whether her actions carried any weight after he revoked the trust.

Donald Sterling's lawyers

contended that his wife and her lawyers conspired to trick him and that the mental exams by two doctors were faulty.

They said Sterling didn't know his competency as a trustee was being evaluated and that he showed no signs of incompetence on the witness stand.

In combative testimony, Sterling said he would "never, ever sell" the team he bought in 1981 for about \$12 million. He vowed to fight the NBA in court until the day he dies.

Before taking the stand, he kissed his wife and then testified that he loved her. But the following day when she approached him in court he yelled, "get away from me, you pig!"

Sterling, a lawyer who made a fortune as a landlord, has filed an antitrust lawsuit in federal court against the NBA and he sued his wife, NBA Commis-

sioner Adam Silver and the league in state court.

Lawyers for Shelly Sterling and Ballmer had urged the judge to let the sale go through because it was in the best interest of the family trust.

They said an auction was less likely to bring such a high price and that coach Doc Rivers, key players and sponsors were likely to walk if Donald Sterling's ownership was prolonged.

"The trust has a golden bird in the hand," Shelly Sterling's lawyers wrote in court papers. "A sale of the Clippers for \$2 billion is indisputably a bonanza for the Sterling family. Donald's strident opposition is motivated by only selfish considerations."

Donald Sterling said he could get more for the team by also selling TV rights and through his \$9 billion suit against the league. □



# Gadget Watch: PadFone novel as phone-tablet hybrid

By ANICK JESDANUN

AP Technology Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** -- Companies often blend old products to give you something new.

This summer, AsusTek Computer Inc. claims you don't need both a phone and a tablet - as long as you get its new PadFone X. The PadFone works like any other phone and has a screen that measures 5 inches diagonally. When you want a tablet experience, you simply slip the phone into a slot on the back of the tablet display, which is included. All the apps on the phone now work on the 9-inch tablet. The phone is what runs the tablet. Asus is bringing this concept to the U.S. for the first time.

In some cases, apps switch to the tablet screen automatically, so you don't have to restart the video or reopen the mail app. In other cases, you'll have to close the app and reopen it after attaching the phone to the tablet screen.

For apps that have been optimized for tablets, the layout on the PadFone rearranges automatically to use the extra space. Yet it's fundamentally a phone. You can make calls in tablet mode, using earphones or the device's speakerphones.

- **NICE PRICE:** It's like buying a phone and getting a tablet for free. Available only through AT&T, the PadFone costs \$550 without a contract, or about \$100 cheaper than Apple's iPhone 5s and Samsung's Galaxy S5. With a two-year service contract, it's the usual \$200 that most carriers charge for a high-end phone.

- **ADVANTAGES:** Because the two parts count as one device, you don't need a second data plan, which typically runs \$10 a month for a tablet under AT&T's sharing plans. This setup also ensures that the tablet has cellular connectivity. Many other tablets work only with Wi-Fi.

In addition, you don't need to install apps twice. Whatever you get on your phone automatically appears on the tablet. You just pick up where you left off whenever you switch, with no need to sync data or settings.



This product image provided by AsusTek Computer Inc. shows The Asus Padfone X.

Associated Press

- **COMPROMISES:** The phone on the back adds bulk to the tablet. It's about three-quarters of an inch at the center, where the phone slot is located. It's also heavy. The combination weighs nearly 1.5 pounds, compared with a pound for the iPad Air.

- **DO YOU NEED IT?** I'm typically a fan of having multiple devices for different circumstances. Here, you're getting extra thickness and weight in fusing the two gadgets.

There's a case for the PadFone, though, if

you're someone who uses a tablet only at home. You can carry the phone with you during the day and attach it to the tablet screen when you get home. You don't have to worry about what apps and data are on which device.

Asus could have gone further, though, making a range of tablet screens available. You might want a 7-inch screen for reading, but a 12-inch screen for video. Why not offer choices to mix and match? □

## Samsung postpones launch of Tizen smartphone

YOUKYUNG LEE

AP Technology Writer

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)** —

Samsung Electronics Co. said Monday it is delaying sales of its first Tizen-powered smartphone in the latest setback to the company's ambition to create a mobile platform to rival Google's Android or Apple's iOS.

The South Korean company had planned to start selling the phone, the Samsung Z, in Russia this quarter. But Samsung indicated that more time is needed to expand Tizen's following of app developers and apps.

In a brief statement, Sam-

sung said the postponement is to further enhance the Tizen "ecosystem," which encompasses developers, consumers and devices using the mobile OS. The delay is a blow to Samsung's push to reduce reliance on Google's Android operating system, which powers Samsung's Galaxy smartphones and tablets. It did not announce a new release date.

About one third of smartphones are made by Samsung, but this ubiquity has not resulted in popularity for Samsung's app store which draws far fewer developers and users than those of Apple or Google.

The earlier sales plan for the Samsung Z was announced in June at a developers conference in San Francisco. Then, Samsung showed off prototypes of the Samsung Z, featuring a 4.8-inch high definition display, a fingerprint sensor for security and a slim, angular design. The prototype device received positive reviews for its fast speed for surfing the Internet and loading apps.

Tizen, Samsung's second attempt at building its own mobile software, has suffered years of delays. In January, Japan's largest mobile carrier NTT DoCoMo reportedly put off its



Visitors try out Samsung Electronics Co.'s Galaxy 5 at the company's showroom in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, July 8, 2014.

Associated Press

plan to sell Tizen handsets. Though smartphones based on Tizen are yet to hit shelves, Samsung has launched other products using the software in the last few months, including a smartwatch and a camera. It also had said Tizen will be used in TVs as well as

in home appliances such as refrigerators.

However, a mobile device based on Tizen is a key product for attracting a substantial number of users and developers who would create apps that earn revenue for the developers and Samsung. □



## Stocks pause as traders await key economic news

**MATTHEW CRAFT**  
**AP Business Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — After dawdling between small gains and losses in a slow day of summer trading, the stock market ended little changed on Monday. Instead of worrying about the conflict between Russia and Ukraine or trouble in the world's other hot spots, investors appeared to sit tight.

Investors will study for any hints about the Fed's next interest-rate move. On Friday, the government releases its closely watched monthly jobs report. "If you're a professional investor," Pavlik said, "the big things you focus on this week are what the Federal Reserve says Wednesday and Friday's monthly employment report." A scattering of merger an-

Zillow, a rival real-estate listing service, was buying it for \$3.5 billion. Trulia advanced \$8.69, or 15 percent, to \$65.04. Zillow picked up \$1.46, or 1 percent, to \$160.32. The S&P 500 index edged up 0.57 of a point, or 0.03 percent, to close at 1,978.91. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 22.02 points, 0.1 percent, to 16,982.59,

the heavyweights posting earnings. American Express and Merck report Tuesday. So far, the news has been better than many expected. Of the 229 companies that have posted results, nearly seven out of 10 have turned in higher profits than analysts projected, according to S&P Capital IQ.

Among the handful of companies reporting Monday, Tyson Foods announced higher quarterly profits as well as a plan to sell its chicken business in Mexico and Brazil for \$575 million in cash. Tyson Foods climbed \$1.02, or 3 percent, to \$40.56.

Tensions between Western powers and Russia remained a concern for investors. On Monday, an international court ordered Russia to pay over \$50 billion to a group of investors for the expropriation of now-defunct oil company Yukos. The ruling comes as European countries consider imposing sanctions on trade in defense, technology and other goods and restricting access to European capital markets for Russia's state-owned companies.

Pavlik said most U.S. investors have managed to set aside their worries over world politics and focus on the improving economy, though the conflicts could still rattle markets.

"I think the market is doing what it should be doing," he said. "It's not getting sucked into all the bad news out there."



**Specialist John O'hara, center, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Monday, July 28, 2014. After dawdling between small gains and losses in a slow day of summer trading, the stock market ended little changed on Monday.**

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

The main reason, said Robert Pavlik, chief market strategist at Banyan Partners, a wealth management firm, is that the news that's most likely to move the market comes out later in the week.

On Wednesday, the Federal Reserve wraps up a two-day meeting then issues a statement that in-

nouncements drove some trading on Monday. Family Dollar rose the most in the Standard & Poor's 500 index — with a 25 percent gain — after Dollar Tree announced plans to buy the rival discount store for roughly \$8.5 billion. Family Dollar's stock surged \$15.08 to \$75.74.

Trulia jumped on news that

while the Nasdaq composite slipped 4.65 points, or 0.1 percent, to 4,444.91.

Wall Street is in the middle of second-quarter earnings season, when big companies turn in their spring-time results and tell investors how they think the rest of the year will shape up. This week, ExxonMobil and MasterCard are among

## Equinox Fitness buying rest of Millennium's gyms

**MICHAEL J. de la MERCED**  
**© 2014 New York Times**

The high-end fitness industry may be awash in trendy concepts - CrossFit, boot camps and the like - but one of the biggest players in the luxury gym market is continuing to expand all the same. Equinox Fitness, the purveyor of expensive workout centers and risqué advertising, said it planned to announce that it had acquired Sports Club/LA gyms in New York and four other cities, as well as the Reebok Sports

Club/NY gym on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. All will soon bear the Equinox brand and feature the company's classes and products. The \$110 million deal, Equinox's second-biggest acquisition, is for the remaining gyms owned by Millennium Partners, the real estate company that sold half of its clubs to Equinox three years ago. That transaction was Equinox's biggest deal. More important, the new deal expands Equinox's empire to 73 locations worldwide,

primarily in major cities like New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles and London.

Much has changed for Equinox since 2011, when it bought the first of the Sports Club/LA and Reebok Sports Club locations for \$130 million. The company also bought SoulCycle, the popular spinning chain, and started the low-cost Blink Fitness brand, in an effort to grow in an economy recovering from recession. Both are performing well, according to Harvey Spevak, the company's chief

executive, with SoulCycle now operating 29 locations and Blink having opened more than two dozen gyms in New York and New Jersey. He declined to elaborate on the privately held company's performance, except to say that its growth remains strong.

Still, the most popular fitness trends today tend to be less luxurious than what Equinox has traditionally offered: CrossFit practitioners call their gyms "boxes" and eschew fancy machines for cold, hard iron.

## Raine claiming small stake in Margaritaville

**MICHAEL J. de la MERCED**  
**© 2014 New York Times**

In its four years of existence, the Raine Group has kept plenty busy with media and telecommunications deals. But its latest investment will tie the firm to a company best known for promoting lazy, boozy afternoons on the beach. The firm disclosed in a letter to investors on Sunday night that it had taken a minority stake in Margaritaville, the restaurant operator and brand licensing company named after the hit song by Jimmy Buffett. According to the letter, Buffett's company generates more than \$1 billion in annual gross sales.

It is the latest investment by Raine in a burgeoning media property. Founded by Joseph Ravitch and Jeffrey Sine, former top-level deal makers at Goldman Sachs and UBS, respectively, is perhaps better known for its advisory services to the likes of SoftBank and WME Endeavor.

But the firm has also taken stakes in Vice Media, the fast-growing online news outlet that has been in talks to sell a stake in itself to Time Warner; Focus Media, a Chinese digital media company; and Zumba Fitness, the dance-themed fitness company.

Now it has bought a stake in Margaritaville, which runs restaurants in nearly two dozen resorts where one would reasonably find tourists kicking back with tequila, and which licenses out the name its majority owner made famous. The company has had a few setbacks, including the recent announcement that it will close its casino and hotel in Biloxi, Mississippi. But Raine told investors that it believes its latest acquisition has "an incredibly strong built-in audience" and has room to grow. The deal is the first struck from Raine's second private equity fund, which has raised more than \$500 million of its fundraising target of \$750 million and is closing in fast on that goal.



# Dollar Tree steps up fight, buys Family Dollar

CANDICE CHOI  
M. CHAPMAN

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The fight for penny pinchers is intensifying.

Dollar Tree said Monday it is buying rival discounter Family Dollar for \$8.5 billion, significantly broadening its reach as it looks to fend off Wal-Mart, which has been stepping up its courtship of lower-income customers.

The deal makes Dollar Tree

the biggest player in the dollar store segment, with its more than 13,000 combined locations eclipsing current leader Dollar General Corp., which has about 11,300.

Dollar stores grew during the recession as people across income groups searched for cheaper options. To attract a broader array of customers, they also expanded their offerings to include more groceries and brand-name

products, instead of just the party favors and other knickknacks people often associated with them.

More recently, however, sales at dollar stores have been suffering because the lower-income customers who go to them are facing persistent job instability and slow wage growth in the aftermath of the recession. Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and Kroger Co. also have been opening smaller store formats to

directly compete with dollar stores. During its current fiscal year, Wal-Mart plans to open 270 to 300 smaller outlets designed to cater to shoppers looking for more convenience.

Brian Sozzi, CEO and chief equities strategist at Belus Capital Advisors, said because the Dollar Tree deal will allow the company to lower expenses by merging its operations, it will ultimately be able to lower prices to better compete

with Wal-Mart.

"Now they're going to take the fight back to Wal-Mart," Sozzi said.

The deal also gives Dollar Tree more flexibility.

Dollar Tree is true to its name, with everything in its stores costing just a buck. The fixed pricing has helped attract more customers and boosted sales, but it also puts the company in a tough spot as inflation pushes up its costs and pressures profit margins. □

# Virgin America Inc. charts flight plan for IPO

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Virgin America's next destination is Wall Street.

shares.

Virgin America Inc., which operates out of Los Ange-

les, has a fleet of 53 planes. It is known for offering a variety of perks on its jets, includ-

But it's still a small player. Virgin America carried 6.3 million passengers last year, less than one percent of the total passengers that flew on U.S. airlines. And its fleet is a tiny fraction of what larger carriers have. For instance, United Airlines has more than 1,200 aircraft in its fleet. Virgin America was founded in 2004 but wasn't approved for flying until the summer of 2007. The company has been unprofitable until last year, when it had earnings of \$10.1 million. In recent years, the U.S. airline industry has posted record profits, while Virgin America has struggled. Since 2009 it has lost about \$407.5 million. Revenue in 2013 rose 6.9 percent to \$1.42 billion from \$1.33 billion in 2012, according to the filing.

The company licenses the Virgin brand name from the Virgin Group, which was started by businessman Sir Richard Branson. The Virgin Group's parent

company, VX Holdings, has a 22.1 percent stake in Virgin America, according to the filing.

Most of Virgin America's executives have worked at larger airlines. CEO and President C. David Cush, who has led the company since 2007, worked at American Airlines for 20 years. Senior Vice President E. Frances Fiorillo came from Canadian Airlines. Others have worked for Continental Airlines and Delta Air Lines.

For the purpose of the filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, the company said it could raise as much as \$115 million, but that number is likely to change.

The company, which has its headquarters in Burlingame, California, did not say when it expects the IPO to happen, how many shares it plans to offer, how much each share will cost or which exchange they will trade on. □



A Virgin America flight on the tarmac at San Francisco International Airport in San Francisco. Virgin America, the sleek low-cost American airline partly owned by Richard Branson, filed for an initial public offering on Monday after posting its first annual profit.

(Jim Wilson/The New York Times)

The California-based airline filed on Monday for an initial public offering of

shares and San Francisco, flies to 22 airports in the United States and Mexico and

ing live TV, movies, leather seats and purple mood lighting.

# Zillow buying Trulia to build real estate titan

MAE ANDERSON  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Zillow and Trulia, two companies that changed the way people shop for homes, are combining.

Real estate website operator Zillow Inc. is buying its rival in a \$3.5 billion deal that will make the biggest player in the online real estate information market.

Zillow will also become king of real estate listings available on smartphones and

tablets — the fastest growing area for listings. Both Zillow and Trulia were founded nearly a decade ago and have capitalized on Americans' increasing preference for researching purchases, including homes, online, rather than relying solely on a real estate agent. "It's a very sound business move by Zillow. They wiped out their closest competitor," said Benchmark analyst Daniel Kurnos. According to Benchmark estimates, Zillow

and Trulia are No. 1 and 2 in the online real estate market, followed by No. 3 Move Inc. Zillow reported nearly 83 million monthly unique visitors in June. Trulia reported 54 million. "We're moving away from word of mouth, or calling an agent to try to find a home," Kurnos said. "Now people realize, 'Hey, I can go look for houses online, and use the Internet to start searching for a home.'" Zillow, which debuted in late 2004, became

well known for its "Zestimate" housing price estimate for 100 million homes nationwide. The number is based on geographic data, user-submitted information and public records. Zillow says the "Zestimate" has a 6.9 percent median error rate, and should be used as a starting point in determining a home's value.

Both Zillow, which went public in 2011 and Trulia, which had its stock market debut in 2012, offer similar infor-

mation like neighborhood school and crime reports and mortgage calculators. Both Zillow and San Francisco-based Trulia generate revenue through advertising and subscription software and services sold to real estate agents.

Trulia shareholders will receive 0.444 shares of Zillow common stock for each share they hold, and will own approximately 33 percent of the combined company. □



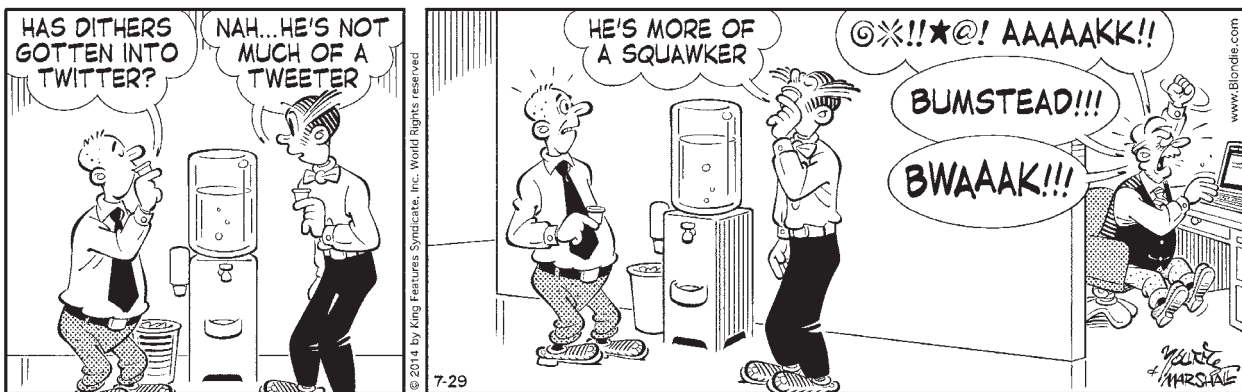
**Mutts**



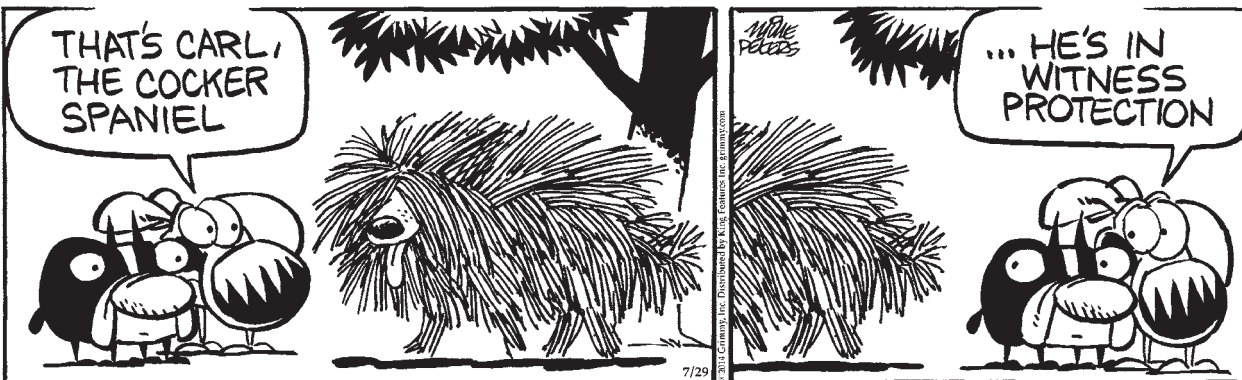
**6 Chix**



**Blondie**



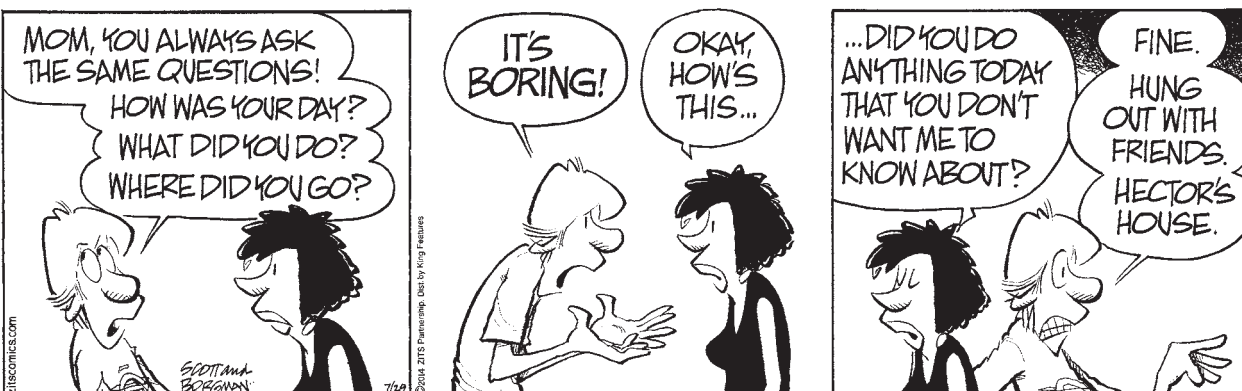
**Mother Goose & Grimm**



**Baby Blues**



**Zits**



**Conceptis Sudoku**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   | 8 |   |   | 3 | 2 |   |   |
|   | 5 |   | 2 |   | 7 |   | 6 |   |
| 7 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 1 |
| 1 | 6 |   | 3 |   | 4 |   | 7 |   |
|   |   |   |   | 5 |   |   |   |   |
|   | 3 |   | 8 |   | 9 |   | 1 | 2 |
| 4 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 6 |
|   | 8 |   | 7 |   | 2 |   | 5 |   |
|   |   | 7 | 1 |   |   | 4 |   |   |

Difficulty Level ★★

7/29

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 5 |
| 5 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 2 |
| 2 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 4 |
| 8 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 3 |
| 1 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 8 |
| 3 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 1 |
| 7 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 6 |
| 6 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 7 |
| 4 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 9 |

**ACROSS**

- Instrument for an angel
- Laurel & Musial
- Poke; urge on
- Actor Sharif
- Big name in cameras
- Dubuque, \_\_
- Cooking herb
- Ascended
- Secluded valley
- Teach
- Slender, short-haired cat
- Female sheep
- Knight's spear
- Can't \_\_; finds intolerable
- Plato's "T"
- Remove the lid from
- Pathway
- Curved bone
- Huns' leader
- Quick \_\_ wink
- Eyeglass for one eye
- Acquired
- Chopped finely
- Regret
- Lunch spot
- Arctic or Indian
- Pelosi's title: abbr.
- Portions
- More impolite
- Long sandwich
- Makes content
- Zealot
- Rich soil
- Highest points
- City in Nevada
- Monster
- Maui feasts
- Gobbles up
- Computer maker
- Stuffed bear
- Horse's gait

|    |    |    |   |    |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4 | 5  | 6 | 7  | 8 | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 |    |    |   | 15 |   |    |   |    |    | 16 |    |    |
| 17 |    |    |   | 18 |   |    |   |    |    | 19 |    |    |
| 20 |    |    |   | 21 |   |    |   |    | 22 |    | 23 |    |
| 24 |    |    |   | 25 |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |
| 26 | 27 | 28 |   | 29 |   |    |   | 30 |    | 31 | 32 | 33 |
| 34 |    |    |   | 35 |   |    |   | 36 |    |    |    |    |
| 37 |    |    |   | 38 |   |    |   | 39 |    |    | 40 |    |
| 41 |    | 42 |   |    |   | 43 |   |    |    | 44 |    |    |
| 45 |    |    |   | 46 |   |    |   | 47 |    |    |    |    |
| 48 |    |    |   | 49 |   |    |   | 50 |    |    |    |    |
| 51 | 52 | 53 |   |    |   |    |   | 54 |    |    | 55 | 56 |
| 57 |    |    |   |    |   |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |
| 58 |    |    |   | 59 |   | 60 |   |    |    | 61 |    |    |
| 62 |    |    |   | 63 |   |    |   |    |    | 64 |    |    |
| 65 |    |    |   | 66 |   |    |   |    |    | 67 |    |    |

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

7/29/14

**Monday's Puzzle Solved**

|            |            |       |
|------------|------------|-------|
| KISS       | SPRAY      | IRON  |
| NOAH       | CLONE      | NOVA  |
| ETCH       | RECTANGLES |       |
| EAR        | PEAK       | ARENA |
| ASHES      | SKI        |       |
| REMAINS    | PLEDGE     |       |
| EVEN       | STEAD      | RAP   |
| NINE       | GLEAM      | TORO  |
| OCT        | BRIAR      | TRUNK |
| TORRID     | TEENSY     |       |
| HIM        | LINED      |       |
| ADLIB      | WAND       | LBS   |
| PIONEERING | SEEP       |       |
| ERGO       | DUNCE      | USER  |
| SEES       | STEED      | ESPY  |

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7/29/14

- |                     |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 39 Piece of china   | 51 Trudge                |
| 42 Chewy candy      | 52 Theater box           |
| 44 Liza Minnelli    | 53 British peer          |
| musical hit         | 54 Long-standing quarrel |
| 46 Save from peril  | 55 Eye secretion         |
| 47 Play on words    | 56 4 __ 20 is 5          |
| 49 Passed out cards | 57 Expense               |
| 50 Impudent         | 60 Angry                 |

**DOWN**

- Rubber tube
- "It's \_\_, Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World"; '63 film
- Spaghetti topper



## New fears about Ebola spread after plane scare

**KRISTA LARSON  
MARIA CHENG  
Associated Press**

**DAKAR, Senegal (AP)** — No one knows for sure just how many people Patrick Sawyer came into contact with the day he boarded a flight in Liberia, had a stop-over in Ghana, changed planes in Togo, and then arrived in Nigeria, where authorities say he died days later from Ebola, one of the deadliest diseases known to man.

Now health workers are scrambling to trace those who may have been exposed to Sawyer across West Africa, including flight attendants and fellow passengers.

Health experts say it is unlikely he could have infected others with the virus that can cause victims to bleed from the eyes, mouth and ears. Still, unsettling questions remain: How could a man whose sister recently died from Ebola manage to board a plane leaving the country? And worse: Could Ebola become the latest disease to be spread by international air travel? Sawyer's death on Friday

has led to tighter screening of airline passengers in West Africa, where an unprecedented outbreak that emerged in March has killed more than 670 people in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia. But some health authorities expressed little confidence in such precautions.

"The best thing would be if people did not travel when they were sick, but the problem is people won't say when they're sick. They will lie in order to travel, so it is doubtful travel recommendations would have a big impact," said Dr. David Heymann, professor of infectious diseases at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

"The important thing is for countries to be prepared when they get patients infected with Ebola, that they are isolated, family members are told what

to do and health workers take the right steps."

The World Health Organization is awaiting laboratory confirmation after Nigerian health authorities said Sawyer tested positive for Ebola, WHO spokesman Gregory Hartl said. The WHO has not recommended any travel restrictions since the outbreak came to light.

"We would have to consider any travel recommendations very carefully, but the best way to stop this outbreak is to put the necessary measures in place at the source of infection," Hartl said. Closing borders "might help, but it won't be exhaustive or foolproof."

The risk of travelers contracting Ebola is considered low because it requires direct contact with bodily fluids or secretions such as urine, blood, sweat or saliva, experts say. □

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3 August 9am  
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# Annoying minor floods are increasing on U.S. coasts

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) --

Along much of America's coasts, the type of flooding that is more annoying than dangerous has jumped more than fivefold in the last 50 years, the federal government reported Monday.

Scientists blame rising seas, saying this is one of the ways global warming is changing everyday lives.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration studied coastal trends in what it calls nuisance flooding, where no one is hurt but people have to deal with flooded roads and buildings.

While scientists and the public spend a lot of time dealing with giant events, such as a hurricane, it is minor floods that people feel more often, though not as severely, said NOAA's Margaret Davidson.

"It's the stuff that keeps you from conducting your business or picking up your kids from school," Davidson said. "It is clear that changing climate and weather patterns will cause us to be increasingly inconvenienced and challenged in our everyday lives."

Oceanographer William Sweet looked at coastal



**This Oct. 30, 2012 file photo shows Sveinn Storm, owner of Storm Bros. Ice Cream Factory measuring flood waters outside his store in Annapolis, Md. in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy that passed through the East Coast.**

sites across the nation, focusing on 25 places with records that go back beyond 1950. Fifty years ago the 25 sites averaged about 2.5 days of minor flooding a year. Now those places average about 14 days a year.

All 25 of those locations saw increases in the number of minor flood days; 22 of them saw more than dou-

bling of nuisance flooding since the late 1950s and early 1960s. Those 25 cities have also seen sea level rise nearly half a foot since 1963.

The biggest increases are in the mid-Atlantic region. Charleston, South Carolina, San Francisco and Port Isabel, Texas, also showed more than four-fold increases in flooding.

Annapolis, Maryland, had the biggest percentage increase. From 1957 to 1963 it averaged 3.6 minor flood days a year; now it averages more than 39 a year. In 2011, Maryland's capital had 66 minor flood days.

University of Maryland environmental scientist Donald Boesch, who wasn't part of the report, said this type of event is probably more

meaningful to people than the bigger and less frequent storms. He noted that sea level has risen about 8 inches in Annapolis since 1971.

"Simply stated, the cause of the increase in inundation frequency is sea level rise attributable to global warming," Boesch said in an email.

Sweet said sinking land and building construction are factors in the increased flooding, but not nearly as much as rising seas.

"It's going to become the new normal," Sweet said. "That is how we can identify with the impacts of sea level rise."

Sweet looked at increase nuisance flooding in Boston; Providence, Rhode Island; New London, Connecticut; Battery Park, Kings Point, and Montauk, New York; Atlantic City and Sandy Hook, New Jersey; Philadelphia; Lewes, Delaware; Baltimore and Annapolis, Maryland; Washington; Norfolk, Virginia; Wilmington, North Carolina; Charleston, South Carolina; Fort Pulaski, Georgia; Fernandina Beach, Key West and Mayport, Florida; Port Isabel, Texas; La Jolla, California; San Francisco, Seattle and Honolulu. □

## Caught on radar: Beer-loving bugs swarm in Midwest

By **M.L. JOHNSON**

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) --

Mayflies have begun emerging from the Mississippi River in swarms that show up on radar like thunderstorms, coat roads and leave behind slimy messes. They've already been blamed for at least one car crash this week in Wisconsin.

The flies hatch and then

spend a year burrowed into the sediment on the bottom of the river that serves as a border between Wisconsin and Minnesota. They emerge the next summer to mate, lay eggs and die, all in less than 48 hours.

Mayflies, sensitive to oxygen levels and pollutants in the river, serve as "sentinels" for scientists and oth-

ers concerned about water quality, said Mark Steingraeber, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist. Mayflies disappeared from a 70-mile area south of the Twin Cities in the 1920s and didn't reappear in significant numbers again until 1978, when wastewater treatment and others actions taken under the Clean Water Act began to have an impact.

The National Weather Service captured a massive swarm on radar Sunday night as the flies came out of the river and drifted north on the wind. The radar system picks up energy reflected off the flies, with the image's intensity reflecting the density of the bugs.

A loop recorded Sunday shows yellow patches di-

rectly over the river that morph into a green band as the flies drift north. The bugs become blue dots as they disperse.

A second, smaller swarm recorded Thursday night starts as a green band before exploding like fireworks into blue dots.

"Almost every night in the summer, there's some sense on the radar that there's something coming off the river," said Dan Baumgardt, science and operations officer for the National Weather Service in La Crosse. "We don't know what kind of bug it is ... until we have people calling or saying, 'Oh my gosh, there's mayflies all in the La Crosse area.'"

The weather service typically records several swarms each year from

June through August. Air and water temperatures have been usually cool this year, helping explain why Sunday's emergence was the first big one this summer, Steingraeber said.

Attracted by light, mayflies congregate on roads, bridges and other surfaces in piles that can be nearly 2 feet high. Cars crush the flies, releasing liquid in the females' eggs and making roads slick. Two people were injured Sunday in Trenton Township in western Wisconsin when a car slid on a road covered by flies, crashed into a second car and then struck a van. Flies that aren't crushed spend 24 hours shedding exoskeletons in a final stage of development before taking to the air again to mate. □



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President Barack Obama helps singer Linda Ronstadt off stage in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Monday, July 28, 2014, during a ceremony where he presented her with a 2013 National Medal of Arts. Associated Press

## Ronstadt gets answer to 'When Will I Be Loved?'

NEDRA PICKLER  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Singer Linda Ronstadt got the answer to that question she's been asking for decades: "When Will I Be Loved?"

The answer was Monday at the White House, by President Barack Obama, who hung a National Medal of Arts around her neck and revealed, "I had a little crush on her back in the day."

The honor was a particularly special moment for Ronstadt, who didn't make it to her induction to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in April since Parkinson's disease limits her ability to travel. A military aide brought her into the East

Room by wheelchair, but she walked to the stage to receive her award as a citation was read honoring her "one-of-a-kind voice" that paved the way for generations of women artists.

Eleven other recipients were awarded the 2013 National Medal of Arts, as the nation's highest award given to artists and their patrons, including DreamWorks Animation chief Jeffrey Katzenberg and Dominican-American writer Julia Alvarez, author of "In the Time of the Butterflies." Ten were awarded the National Humanities Medal, which honors those in fields including history, literature, languages and philosophy. □

## Dozens treated for illness at Keith Urban concert

**MANSFIELD, Mass. (AP)** — Authorities say several dozen people were treated for alcohol-related illnesses at a weekend Keith Urban concert in Massachusetts.

Police and fire officials say ambulances from five surrounding communities responded to the Saturday night concert at the Xfinity Center in Mansfield, about

30 miles south of Boston. At least 46 people were treated and 22 were taken to local hospitals.

Police say more than 50 people were taken into protective custody at the concert, and some could face charges.

Officials say about 18,000 country music fans attended the concert at the outside venue. □



This July 21, 2014 photo shows actor Chadwick Boseman, star of the James Brown film "Get on Up," in New York. Associated Press

## A double-header of biopics for Chadwick Boseman

JAKE COYLE  
AP Film Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A year after playing Jackie Robinson in "42," Chadwick Boseman was back in biopic spring training.

To become James Brown for the film "Get on Up," Boseman needed to rely on an entirely different skill set. But the preparation necessary to transform into a tireless performer like Brown — "the hardest working man in show business," after all — was oddly reminiscent of working out on the baseball diamond.

"I was like, 'This is deja vu,'" says Boseman. "I'm waking up in the morning and lacing them up. Doesn't matter whether it's cleats or if it's leather shoes."

For the second time, Boseman has stepped into some very big ones. A largely unknown actor previously, the 32-year-old Boseman has emerged with back-to-back biopics of 20th century titans: one the revolutionary breaker of baseball's color line, the other the Godfather of Soul. Both were unstoppable forces that blazed across civil rights-era America. One could steal home; the other could do the Mashed Potato.

Tackling one such historical figure is daring; two is

audacious. It wasn't Boseman's idea.

"There's no way in the world," Boseman says was his initial reaction to playing Brown, still sounding genuinely resistant to the idea. Not only was playing such a complicated, iconic personality like Brown a fearsome challenge, it also could potentially typecast Boseman in a biopic bubble.

"I felt like if I keep doing this biopic thing, then all I'm going to get is biopics," says Boseman. "I was already getting all biopic scripts."

But director Tate Taylor ("The Help") pressed. He brought Boseman in to read a scene in the movie of Brown at 63 and was immediately won over by the fresh-faced Boseman's ability to transform into the legend late in life. "I thought: This is the guy. Please let him be able to learn how to dance," said Taylor. But it took weeks of coaxing: "Chad's point of view was, 'Nobody should do this. It's just not even possible.'"

"Get on Up," produced by Brian Grazer, had gone through other iterations. At one time, Spike Lee was to direct. Later, Mick Jagger, who frequently crossed paths with Brown and took much inspiration from him,

came aboard as a producer. (Jagger is also producing an upcoming documentary about Brown, directed by Alex Gibney.) The film, which opens in theaters Friday, skips across Brown's expansive life, from the Georgia poverty of his hard upbringing to his more cartoonish and violent later years. (James died in 2006.) "Get on Up," written by the brothers Jez and John-Henry Butterworth, attempts to synthesize all of James' many dimensions: tyrannical bandleader, musical visionary, funk preacher, domestic abuser.

Brown's vocals are used during performances in the movie, but the part required Boseman to play Brown across time and pompadours. He had to find the voice, the moves, the posture and the persona, and hope somewhere in there was the man, too. "It was all daunting, to be honest with you," sighs Boseman.

With so much research and dance training to fit into two months before shooting began, Boseman had to make a quick study. "They gave me the whole catalog of music and I just sat and listened to every song," he says. "I started with the music because it was so visceral." □



# Take off your clothes to make it in TV

**DAVID BAUDER**

**AP Television Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A contestant on a new VH1 dating show didn't beckon a woman to walk in front of him out of politeness. He wanted to check her out from behind and didn't need to use his imagination.

The "Dating Naked" series is the latest example of reality television's newest trend: Nudity is hot, no longer confined to late-night premium cable.

Leading the way is Discovery's "Naked and Afraid," on which a man and woman who don't know each other fend for themselves in the wilderness for three weeks without a stitch between them. That program's success since its June 2013 premiere begat VH1's "Dating Naked" and TLC's real estate show "Buying Naked," with more in the planning stages.

What's the appeal?

Well, what do you think?

In a world of endless choices, titillation lures. So does a catchy title, and the word "naked" jumps off the program guide. Brent Mont-



**Couples take a ride in a pedicab to promote the new VH1 series "Dating Naked" on Wednesday, July 16, 2014, in New York City.**

**Associated Press**

gomery, who produces the nonfiction hit "Pawn Stars," which airs on the History channel, said many early fans were drawn in by that title even though the show had nothing to do with the image left in your head. He's now doing the spinoff, "Pawnography."

To truly succeed, however, a show needs more going for it to keep viewers once

the novelty of watching naked bodies with blurred body parts wears off.

"The secret sauce of our show is not the fact that they're naked," said Denise Contis, West Coast head of production and development at Discovery. "I think it's the storytelling, the cast and a survival experience that's authentic." Memorable characters

make successful shows, "and it takes a big character to take off their clothes in front of a reality TV camera," Montgomery said.

Standards are the same at each show: male and female genitalia are blurred out, along with female breasts. Backsides are fair game. A graphic artist takes about a week to cleanse each episode of "Naked and Afraid." A strategically placed flowerpot or sofa obscures the nude home shoppers in "Buying Naked."

Discovery wasn't searching for a "naked" show when developing "Naked and Afraid," Contis said. It wanted a new twist in the survival genre and, ultimately, the most elemental shelter is clothing.

Yet, let's face it: One hook is the question of whether a romance develops between two naked strangers left alone in the woods (except for the producers and camera crew, of course). It hasn't happened yet. The opposite is more likely: In one upcoming episode the two survivalists detest each other so much they agreed to separate until they were picked up at the end.

Romance is the point of "Dating Naked." Susan Levison, head of programming at VH1, gave the series a green light her first day on the job last Sep-

tember and hurried to beat competitors to the air. Fox has its own naked dating show in the works but put it on hold during a management change.

"The idea of using nudity as a metaphor for allowing yourself to be truly exposed and truly yourself in the search for love felt really fresh and exciting," Levison said.

While the nudity arguably serves a thematic purpose on "Dating Naked" and "Naked and Afraid," it's hard to see "Buying Naked" as anything other than a typical real estate show on which prospective owners leave their clothes at home. TLC says the Florida-based show exposes the habits of a nearby nudist colony.

The "Dating Naked" debut earlier this month featured a woman in her 30s stung when her chosen man was distracted by a younger, gorgeous temptress, an intriguing story for VH1's female-dominated audience. The older woman's name, Wee Wee, trended on Twitter, and the episode's audience of 826,000 easily beat the network's average of 335,000 viewers in the time slot. With more than 4 million viewers, "Naked and Afraid" was Discovery's most-watched series premiere ever.

That explains why plenty of other "naked" pitches are being heard in network boardrooms.

"You'll probably see four or five work and a dozen that don't work," Montgomery said.

The Parents Television Council is dismayed that each of the "naked" shows is judged by its network as being suitable for children. But Tim Winter, president of the lobbying group, which backs family-friendly programming, predicted the trend will be short-lived. Despite the ratings, the shows likely make many advertisers squeamish.

"It's just so lazy," he said. "This is how you have to resort to making a buck? Is this really what your entertainment brand stands for?" □

## Sarah Palin launches online subscription channel

**FRAZIER MOORE**

**AP Television Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Former Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin has started her own subscription-based online network.

The Sarah Palin Channel, which went live on Sunday, bills itself as a "direct connection" between the former Alaska governor and her supporters, with "no need to please the powers-that-be," Palin says in a video mission statement on her channel's home page.

"Are you tired of the media filters?" she asks. "Well, I am. I always have been. So we're gonna do something about it."

"We'll talk about the issues that the mainstream media won't talk about," she adds.



**In this April 27, 2014 file photo, former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin speaks during a campaign rally in West Des Moines, Iowa.**

**Associated Press**

Palin says she oversees all content posted to the channel. This will include her own political commentary. Other features for subscribers include the ability to submit questions to Palin and participate with her in online video chats.

Membership is set at \$9.95

per month or \$99.95 for a year.

Palin remains active elsewhere as a Fox News Channel contributor and reality-TV personality.

The Sarah Palin Channel is part of the TAPP video platform, which launched earlier this year. □



## What Is News?



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN  
© 2014 New York Times

**FORT-DAUPHIN, Madagascar** - With the world going crazy, I tried running away from the news. It didn't work.

I've been doing an eco-survey of Madagascar, the island nation off the east coast of Africa that contains the highest percentage of plant and animal species found nowhere else on earth - all of them now endangered to one degree or another. My tour guide is Russ Mittermeier, the president of Conservation International and one of the world's leading primatologists. We saw something the other day that even Mittermeier, who's been coming here for 30 years, hadn't seen before.

We were trekking through the Berenty Reserve, one of the last remaining slices of Madagascar's southern spiny desert - an ecosystem characterized by tall, thin, cactus-like plants exclusive to Madagascar. This forest is home to Sifaka lemurs: white, fluffy primates, with very long hind limbs that enable them to bound from tree to tree like forest kangaroos. How these lemurs are able to leap from one sharply spiked vertical tree to another without impaling themselves is a mystery.

After walking through the forest for hours, spotting a lemur here and there, we came upon a particularly dense grove and looked up. There, about 30 feet off the forest floor, were nine Sifaka lemurs huddling together for warmth in two groups - four on one limb, five on another - staring directly down at us. They looked as if they were drawn there by a Disney artist: too cute, too white, too fluffy to be other than the products of a toy factory. "I've seen two or three huddled together," said Mittermeier later that night, "but I've never seen a whole group like that. I could have taken a whole chip full of pictures. I didn't want to leave." None of us did. But it wasn't just because we'd never seen such a thing before. It was because we knew we may never see such a thing again - that no one would, particularly our kids. Why? Just look at the trends: Madagascar has already lost more than 90 percent of its natural vegetation through deforestation, most of it over the last century, particularly the past few decades, said Mittermeier. "What remains is heavily fragmented and insufficiently protected, despite the fact that Madagascar has an essential national network of parks and reserves."

And that brings me to the question: What is news?

I've visited and written a lot about Ukraine and the Middle East lately. The tragic events

happening there are real news, worthy of world attention. But where we in the news media fall down is in covering the big trends - trends that on any given day don't amount to much but over time could be vastly more significant than we can now imagine. Too bad we'll never see this news story: "The U.N. Security Council met today in emergency session to discuss the fact that Madagascar, one the world's most biodiversity-rich nations, lost another percentage of its plant and animal species." Or this: "Secretary of State John Kerry today broke off his vacation and rushed to Madagascar to try to negotiate a cease-fire between the loggers, poachers, miners and farmers threatening to devour the last fragments of Madagascar's unique forests and the tiny group of dedicated local environmentalists trying to protect them."

Because that won't happen, we have to think about how this one-of-a-kind natural world can be protected with the limited resources here. We know the answer in theory - a well-managed national system of parks and reserves is vital because, given the current trends, anything outside such protected zones would be devoured by development and population growth. For Madagascar, this is particularly vital because, without its forests, neither its amazing plants nor animals will survive - which are a joy unto themselves and also attract critical tourist income for this incredibly poor country - and the people won't survive, either. These forests maintain the clean and sustainable water supplies and soils that Madagascar's exploding population requires.

"We have to preserve this natural environment," Hery Rajaonarimampianina, Madagascar's president, told me in an interview. "One of my major policies is to develop eco-tourism. This can bring a lot of jobs. The problem is the poverty of the people that lead them to destroy the environment. That is very sad." Madagascar's ecological challenge parallels the Middle East's political challenge. The struggle here is all about preserving Madagascar's natural diversity so its people will have the resilience, tools and options to ensure a decent future. A diverse system in nature is much more resilient and adaptable to change. Monocultures are enormously susceptible to disease. They can be wiped out by a single pest or weather event in a way that a polyculture cannot.

In the Middle East today, though, the last remnants of polycultural nation states and communities are being wiped out. Christians are fleeing the Arab-Muslim world. Islamist jihadists in Syria and Iraq are beheading those who won't convert to their puritanical Islam. Jews and Palestinians, Shiites and Sunnis keep forcing each other into tighter and tighter ghettos. So a human rain forest once rich with ethnic and religious diversity is becoming a collection of disconnected monocultures, enormously susceptible to disease - diseased ideas. □



## The World's Coolest Places



NICHOLAS KRISTOF  
© 2014 New York Times

Travel season is here, when so many Americans decamp to Cape Cod or the Jersey Shore. All of which is wonderful, and someday I plan to do a 10-part series on the world's best beaches.

But travel can also be an education, a step toward empathy and international understanding. So for those with an adventurous streak who want to get beyond the madding crowd this summer, here are a few little-known travel spots that I recommend.

These just might be the world's coolest places.

**Bikini Atoll, Marshall Islands**  
This coral island in the Pacific Ocean was the site of American nuclear weapons tests in the 1940s and 1950s, but after decades left to itself it is now dazzlingly beautiful in a way that belies its history. Radiation has dissipated, and the deserted white-sand beaches are lined with coconut palms and scattered with seashells and an occasional giant sea turtle - which will hurriedly call to its friends: Look, there's a rare sight, a human! The island is a reminder of the redemptive power of time and nature.

**Potosí, Bolivia**

Perhaps no country in Latin America is more picturesque than Bolivia, and the most memorable Bolivian city may be Potosí. European explorers discovered a huge silver mountain here in the 1540s, and, in the 1600s, this was one of the major cities in the world. Tourists can descend the silver mines, and it is a searing and unforgettable experience. You go down hundreds of feet in tiny, sweltering tunnels thick with dust, talk to some of the miners, and get a glimpse of what life is like for the many Bolivians who work each day in the mines. After a couple of hours deep underground, sometimes struggling to breathe and fretting about cave-ins, you may have new empathy for the laborers responsible for silver bowls and cutlery.

**Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe**

Maybe our best family trip started at Victoria Falls, which drenches you with spray and is so vast that it makes Niagara Falls seem like a backyard creek. Then we rented a car and made our way to Hwange National Park, which was empty of people but crowded with zebras, giraffes, elephants and more. Zimbabwe has far fewer tourists than South Africa or Kenya, and there's less crime as well.

**Amritsar, India**

The Golden Temple, Sikhism's holiest shrine, is in northwestern India near the Pakistani border, and it is a delightful place to contemplate the draw of faith. A four-century-old temple set in a lake, it attracts Sikhs from around the world. It is much less visited by tourists than the Taj Mahal, yet it is just as serene, grand and unforgettable. You walk the circuit of the lake barefoot, with your head covered, and, for the full experience, you can sleep and eat in temple buildings.

**Tanna, Vanuatu**

This remote island in the South Pa-

cific is notable for its live volcano that you can climb at night. From the lip, you look down and see the fires and molten lava. It's a natural fireworks display. The people of Tanna are also likely to invite you to drink kava, the local intoxicant, or perhaps join a village dance. The local faith tradition is a cargo cult. People believe in a god they call John Frum, perhaps based on an American military officer around the time of World War II who gave islanders their first glimpse of industrial products. One theory is that he introduced himself as "John from America," but only the first two words survived and became his name.

**Cu Chi Tunnels, Vietnam**

Follow a guide in wriggling on your stomach underground through these tunnels dug by Vietcong soldiers who used them and even lived in them during the Vietnam War. The tunnels are now widened to accommodate portly Americans, and they are still a tight fit. After a couple hundred feet of crawling in the tunnels, you're desperate to come up again, and you understand that military victory is sometimes not about weaponry but about commitment.

There's nothing wrong, of course, with a delicious week at the beach with a pile of books. But if you're hankering to encounter new worlds and come back with a tale, think about some of these destinations. The tourism infrastructure may not be great, but the people (or elephants) will make up for it.

When I visited the Pacific island country of Kiribati years ago, I made a reservation by phone to make sure I would have a place to stay. The man at the hotel agreed to hold me a spot, but he skipped the details.

"I don't need the name," he said. "If there's an American at the airport, I'll recognize him." □



# Muslims Mark End of Ramadan With Eid Celebrations

**AYA BATRAWY**

**Associated Press**

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)** — Millions of Muslims across the world celebrated the first day of the Eid al-Fitr holiday Monday,

which marks the end of the monthlong fast of Ramadan.

The three-day-long Eid al-Fitr holiday is a time to celebrate the completion of Ramadan, a month devoted to worship and repentance during which observing Muslims abstain from food and water from sunrise to sunset every day. But the mood was dark for millions of people affected by the Syrian civil war, the Gaza war and the militant advance in Iraq. Many were just too busy trying to survive to observe the holiday. Beyond the Middle East, the few remaining Muslims in the Central African Republic's capital city ventured out to a mosque under the watchful guard of armed peacekeepers. Others like Aminata Bary stayed at home, still too fearful to venture out for fear of attack from Christian militias who drove thousands of Muslims from the capital this year. In the Philippines, an insurgent group attacked

people traveling to celebrate with their families, killing 21, including at least six children, in the bloodiest incident by the gunmen in recent years.

In Gaza City, streets were largely deserted, as residents huddled indoors for safety. More than 1,040 Gazans have been killed, more than 6,000 wounded and tens of thousands displaced in the last three weeks of fighting between Israel and Hamas, according to Palestinian officials. Israel has seen 43 Israeli soldiers and three civilians killed.

"All we think about is to stay safe," said Fedaa Abul Atta, a nurse and mother of six. The family was grieving the death of her nephew, killed in an airstrike. Her house among hundreds demolished by Israeli fire in the Gaza City neighborhood of Shijaiyah.

The mood was equally subdued for the more than 1 million Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

"Eid has no flavor here at all," said Umm Ammar, who fled her country three years ago with her family and now lives in an encampment in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley. "We want to celebrate Eid in Syria, in our



**Hundreds of Kenyan Muslims gather and offer prayers outside Masjid Noor mosque during the end of the holy fasting month of Ramadan in Nairobi, Kenya on Monday, July 28, 2014. The Eid al-Fitr, one of the holiest religious practices, is celebrated with prayers and family reunions and other festivities among Muslims all over the world.**

**(AP Photo/Sayyid Azim)**

homes." Despite frequent car bombings in Iraq's capital of Baghdad, shoppers packed malls and stores ahead of Eid in anticipation of family gatherings.

Muslims in Indonesia, across the Middle East, parts of Africa, Europe and the U.S. marked Eid on Monday. Millions in Morocco, India and most of Pakistan are still fasting and will likely celebrate Eid on Tuesday. That's because Muslims use a lunar calendar and

a moon-sighting methodology that can lead to the month of fasting ending on different days.

In West Africa, Eid prayers were dedicated to the victims of two tragedies in the region — the crash of an Air Algerie plane that killed 118 people and an ongoing Ebola outbreak that has killed more than 670.

Eid celebrations were less extravagant than usual in Malaysia as it tried to come to terms with loss of two

Malaysian Airlines flights. Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak and his Cabinet canceled their celebrations to mourn for the victims.

Similarly, Lebanese Prime Minister Tammam Salam announced that he would not be receiving guests or congratulations because of the situation in nearby Gaza. Turkish President Abdullah Gul reminded people in his Eid message that though Turkey was enjoying a peaceful holiday, many of its neighbors were not. In Qatar's capital city of Doha, celebrations were cancelled in one area and in another the festivities were curbed back to mourn victims in Gaza. Some restaurants also had donation boxes and said they would donate their Eid profits to Gaza.

Iman Eddbali, 26, said the imam leading prayers in her local mosque in Doha urged worshippers to be happy for those who cannot be happy this year.

"It is a religious duty to celebrate the end of Ramadan, ... but at the same time it would be indecent to overdo it this year," she said. "We just can't ignore that there are many, many people, not just in Palestine, that simply just can't even have a proper day to rest and mourn their dead." □



**Muslim men, bowing toward Mecca, offer Eid al-Fitr prayers that marks the end of the holy fasting month of Ramadan as police guard them at the main mosque in Moscow, Russia, Monday, July 28, 2014. More than two hundred thousand Muslims gathered at Moscow's mosques to celebrate the Eid al-Fitr.**

**(AP Photo/Evgeny Feldman)**